

# YOUR RETIREMENT BENEFITS

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State Employees

# WHAT IS YOUR RETIREMENT BENEFIT?

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Members of the Employee's Retirement System of Rhode Island have a **Hybrid Retirement Benefits Plan** made up of a Defined Benefit plan (**Pension Plan**) and a Defined Contribution Plan (**DC Plan**).



# WHAT IS A DEFINED BENEFIT OR PENSION PLAN?

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- Your Pension benefit is managed by ERSRI and **pays you a specific amount of money per month** when you are eligible to retire.
- You contribute towards your individual pension.
- Your employer contributes into the pension fund for all employees.
- The amount of your monthly pension benefit is based on a number of criteria including your schedule, how long you have worked and your salary.

# WHAT IS A DEFINED CONTRIBUTION (DC) PLAN?

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- The Defined Contribution (DC Plan) allows you to **save money for your retirement in a tax-deferred account.**
- You and your employer contribute a percentage of your salary each pay period into your DC plan that is managed by TIAA.
- TIAA manages your investments and when you retire you will withdraw money from this account to pay for your living expenses.

# YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO YOUR PENSION AND DC PLAN

Contributions	Pension Plan	Defined Contribution (DC)
Employee	3.75%	5% or 7% <i>(if not in Social Security)</i>
Employees with 20+ Years of Service as of 6/30/12	11% <i>(3.75+5+2.25)</i>	No longer participates in the plan as of 7/1/15.
State Public Safety Professionals	10%	No longer participates in the plan as of 1/1/25.

As part of the pension settlement, if you **have 20 or more Years of Service credit as of June 30, 2012**, you no longer contribute to the DC Plan as of July 1, 2015 and will continue to own your own account.

# YOUR EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DC PLAN

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**LESS THAN 10 YEARS**  
AS OF 6/30/12

1% salary

**AT LEAST 10 YEARS,  
BUT LESS THAN 15 AS OF 6/30/12**

1.25% salary

**AT LEAST 15 YEARS,  
BUT LESS THAN 20 AS OF 6/30/12**

1.5% salary

**20 OR MORE YEARS**  
AS OF 6/30/12

No longer participates  
in the DC Plan.

**NOTE:** Members fall into one of the above categories based on frozen service as of June 30, 2012. They do NOT move between categories as they earn additional years of service.

# WHAT'S A SCHEDULE?

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- Schedules are determined by when you were hired and how many years of service you had at certain points in time.
  - Years of Service / July 1, 2005
  - Years of Service / September 30, 2009
  - Years of Service / June 30, 2012
- Schedule type impacts when you are eligible to retire, your accruals and service credit factor, and what your benefit will be when you retire.

# HOW DO WE DETERMINE YOUR SCHEDULE?

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## SCHEDULE A

Active and eligible to retire with either 28 years of service OR age 60 with 10 years of service on, or before, 9/30/2009.

## SCHEDULE AB E

Active with at least 10 years as of 7/1/2005.  
Not eligible to retire as of 9/30/2009.  
Became eligible to retire as of 6/30/2012.

## SCHEDULE B

Active and eligible to retire with either 29 years and age 59 OR age 65 with 10 years on or before 9/30/2009.

## SCHEDULE AB NE

Active as of 10/1/2009, and not eligible to retire as of 6/30/2012. At least 5 years on or before 6/30/2012.

**NOTE:** Only *contributing service* counts towards vesting.



# HOW DO WE DETERMINE YOUR SCHEDULE?

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## SCHEDULE B1 E

Active but not eligible to retire as of 10/1/2009, but became eligible to retire on or before 6/30/2012.

## SCHEDULE B2

Hired between 10/01/09 and 6/30/12.

## SCHEDULE B1 NE

Active but not eligible to retire as of 9/30/2009 or 6/30/2012, and had at least 5 years on or before 6/30/2012.

## SCHEDULE B3

Hired on or after 7/1/2012.

**NOTE:** Only *contributing service* counts towards vesting.

# WHEN CAN YOU RETIRE?

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- **Retire with full benefits:**
  - Schedule based on retirement date
  - OR
  - **Rule of 95:** Your age and service equal 95 (only applies to those whose retirement date is age 62 or later).
- **Retire early with reduced benefits**
  - Transition Rule 1
  - Transition Rule 2

All members have their own unique retirement eligibility age

# WHEN CAN YOU RETIRE?

## State Schedule Based Retirement Date

Schedule A, AB E, B, and B1E	Schedule AB NE	Schedule B1NE	Schedule B2 and B3
Currently eligible to retire.	<b>Social Security Normal Retirement Age (SSNRA) proportionally scaled back</b> based on years of service earned as of 9/30/2009 and 6/30/12. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not less than age 59</li><li>• 5+ years of contributory service.</li></ul>	<b>Social Security Normal Retirement Age (SSNRA) proportionally scaled back</b> based on years of service earned as of 9/30/2009 and 6/30/12. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not less than age 59</li><li>• 65 if determined by Article 7 calculation</li><li>• 5+ years of contributory service at 6/30/12.</li></ul>	<b>Social Security Normal Retirement Age (SSNRA) and 5 years</b> of contributory service.

# WHEN CAN YOU RETIRE?

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## Rule of 95

- Members of any schedule type can retire when their age (at least 62 years old) plus their years of service equal 95.
- **For example:**
  - 62 years old + 33 years of service = Rule of 95 Eligible.

The rule of 95 is only used to provide an **EARLIER** retirement date than your Schedule Based Eligibility Date.

# RETIRING EARLY: TRANSITION RULE 1

- **Eligibility for Transition Rule 1:**
  - You have 20+ years of service and are within 5 years of your full benefit eligibility date.
- **How early can you retire?**
  - Up to five years before your full benefit eligibility date.
- **How is your benefit reduced?**
  - Your benefit is reduced by a set percentage for each year you leave before your full benefit eligibility date.
  - **For example:** If you left 5 years before reaching eligibility you would receive 62% of the benefit earned through your last day of employment.

Year(s) before retirement eligibility	Per year reduction	Cumulative reduction
1	9%	9%
2	8%	17%
3	7%	24%
4	7%	31%
5	7%	38%

# RETIRING EARLY: TRANSITION RULE 2

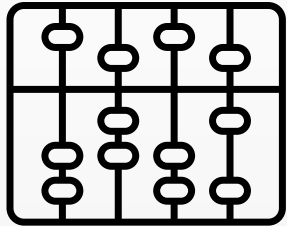
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- **Eligibility for Transition Rule 2:**
  - You completed 10 years of service by June 30, 2012.
- **How early can you retire?**
  - You can retire based on your eligibility rules in effect as of September 30, 2009.
- **How is your benefit reduced?**
  - ERSRI will use your Service Credit Factor and Highest Average Salary earned as of June 30, 2012 to calculate your pension.

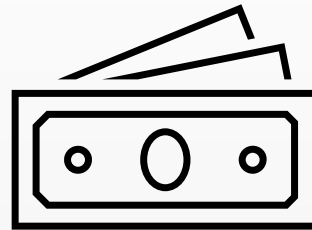
# CALCULATING YOUR PENSION BENEFIT

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How is your pension benefit calculated?



**SERVICE  
CREDIT FACTOR**



**HIGHEST  
AVERAGE SALARY**



**YOUR  
PENSION BENEFIT**

# CALCULATING YOUR SERVICE CREDIT

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- Each year that you work for a participating employer, you accrue a set percentage (your accruals) that are added together to determine your Service Credit Factor.
- **Your total service credit factor cannot exceed 75-80% depending on your schedule.**

Schedule	Maximum Service Credit Factor
Schedules A, AB E and AB NE	80%
Schedules B, B1E, B1NE, B2, and B3	75%



# ACCRUALS

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Teacher Year(s) Earned	Schedule A through 6/30/12; AB through 9/30/09	Schedule B through 6/30/12; AB from 10/1/09-6/30/12	Accruals as of 7/1/2012 (all members)	Accruals as of 7/1/15 (if 20 or more years at 6/30/2012)
Year 1-10	1.7%	1.6%	1.0%	n/a
Year 11-20	1.9%	1.8%	1.0%	n/a
Year 21-25	3.0%	2.0%	1.0%	2.0%
Year 26-30	3.0%	2.25%	1.0%	2.0%
Year 31-34	3.0%	2.5%	1.0%	2.0%
Year 35	2.0%	2.5%	1.0%	2.0%
Year 36-37	n/a	2.5%	1.0%	2.0%
Year 38	n/a	2.25%	1.0%	2.0%

# CALCULATING YOUR HIGHEST AVERAGE SALARY

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- Your highest average salary is the average of your highest 3 consecutive (back to back) years of salary.

Schedule	Highest Average Salary
Schedule A, and B	3 highest consecutive years.
Schedules AB E, AB NE, B1E, B1NE, B2, and B3	3 highest consecutive years as of 7/1/2024 5 highest consecutive years before 7/1/2024

# YOUR PENSION PAYMENT OPTIONS

Payment option	Amount	Spouse/beneficiary amount	Allowed to switch options one time?
<b>Service Retirement Allowance (SRA)</b>	Full benefit paid monthly to the member	\$0	No
<b>Option 1: Joint &amp; Survivor 100%</b>	Reduced benefit	Spouse or beneficiary receives same monthly benefit after member's death.	Yes—to Option 2 or SRA
<b>Option 2: Joint &amp; Survivor 50%</b>	Reduced benefit	Spouse or beneficiary receives 50% of the monthly benefit after member's death.	Yes—to Option 1 or SRA
<b>SRA Plus (Schedule A &amp; AB only)</b>	Higher benefit prior to age 62. <i>Reduced pension after 62.</i>	\$0	No

- A Qualified Domestic Relations Order (QDRO) may restrict your pension payment options.
- **Option 1: J&S100** and **Option 2: J&S50** are actuarially reduced benefits based on difference in age between member and beneficiary.
- One time change is permitted while living if **Option 1: J&S100** and **Option 2: J&S50**. The change of option form must be received by ERSRI prior to death.

# RECEIVING YOUR PENSION PAYMENTS

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- Your first pension payment will be received 2-3 months after retirement (Payment is retroactive to date of retirement or the first of month in which we received your application whichever is later).
- Each payment will be directly deposited to your bank account.
- An e-mail will be sent to you each month notifying you that your direct deposit stub is available online.
- Payments will be made on the last business day of the month for the month.

# DEATH BENEFITS

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## What benefits are your survivors entitled to?

- A member's designated beneficiary is eligible to receive a one time death benefit payment regardless of retirement option selected.
- Benefit is \$800 per year of completed service, up to a maximum benefit of \$16,000 with 20 years of service.
- Benefit reduces 25% each year of retirement to a minimum death benefit of \$4,000.

Please be sure to keep your **beneficiary information up to date** with ERSRI.

# WHAT ABOUT A COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT?

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- **Annual COLA:**
  - For ERS (State employees and teachers) plans less than 75% funded, COLA-eligible members receive 1/4th (25%) of the calculated COLA annually.
    - Judges and State Police receive COLA every 4 years until ERS funds are 75% funded.
  - The Annual COLA at the full rate resumes when your plan is 75% funded.
- **COLA Eligibility**
  - Members retiring today become eligible COLA the month after reaching their Social Security Normal Retirement Age OR the month following the three year anniversary date of their retirement, **whichever is later.**

# WHAT ABOUT A COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT?

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## COLA Calculation

- COLA is calculated based on equal parts of 50% of investment performance minus 5%, and 50% of inflation with a maximum COLA of 3.5%.
  - For members who receive 1/4th annual COLA, the result is divided by 4
- For members retiring now, COLA is paid (when eligible) on the first \$30,622 (indexed) of your annual pension benefit.

# A NOTE ON STATE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE ELIGIBILITY

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- The Office of Employee Benefits (OEB) administers health care benefits for retired state employees between the age of 59–64 and Via Benefits manages benefits for members 65+.
- Members who are over the age of 59 and have at least 20 years of *state* service may be eligible for an 80% subsidy for individual health coverage through OEB or Via Benefits.
- Members who take a deferred pension (terminate employment prior to reaching retirement eligibility) and wait to collect their benefit are *not* eligible for state health coverage.

Contact the Office of Employee Benefits or Via Benefits about health care **BEFORE** making your decision about when to retire.  
Office of Employee Benefits • (401) 574-8530 • [www.employeebenefits.ri.gov](http://www.employeebenefits.ri.gov)



# RETIREMENT FORMS

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Send these forms to  
ERSRI, 50 Service Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor,  
Warwick, RI 02886 before your last day.

- Application for Retirement
- Option Election Form
- Tax Withholding Form (Federal and RI forms)
- Direct Deposit Form
- Basic Group Life Insurance Election Form (if applicable)
- Beneficiary Designation Form

Send this form to your payroll/human resources department within 3 months prior to terminating employment:

- Employer Certification of Retirement and Final Wages

**If under 65, send this to Office of Employee Benefits, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908 before your last day. If age 65 or older contact Via Benefits at 844-448-7298**

- Retiree Health Care Election (if applicable for health from state)

# ERSRI ONLINE REGISTRATION

- Visit [www.ersri.org](http://www.ersri.org) to register your **My Retirement** account.
- The self registration process will ask you for identifying personal information and give you a login ID.
- Be sure to write down your login ID and password in a safe place.

The screenshot displays the homepage of the Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island. At the top left is the organization's logo, featuring a shield with an anchor and the text 'EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF RHODE ISLAND'. To the right of the logo is the text 'Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island'. Further right is a 'Log out' button and a search bar with the text 'Hi John Doe' and a search icon. Below the logo is a home icon. The main content area is titled 'My Retirement' and features a large banner with the text 'Introducing... your pension plan' and a photo of a woman. Below the banner is a 'Read the plan description' section with a 'Get started!' button. To the right of the banner is a 'My Pension' section with a dark header and a light body containing text: 'Assuming you will continue to participate in the plan until retirement, your estimated pension payable at age 64 is equal to: \$26,200 per year.' Below this text is a list of links: 'Use the Pension Projection tool', 'Use the Buyback tool', 'Update My Personal Information', 'View My Pension Profile', 'View My Documents', and 'Schedule An Appointment'. To the right of the 'My Pension' section is a 'HELP' sidebar with a 'Call Us' button and an 'Email Us' button. Below the banner is a 'Tools' section with four icons: a clock, a checklist, a dollar sign, and a person icon. At the bottom right is a 'My Plans' section with a dark header and a light body containing the text 'My Employer Pension Plan'.

# HOW TO RUN A BENEFIT ESTIMATE ONLINE

**PENSION PROJECTION TOOL** Administrator tools ▾ | Recent estimates | Yearly amounts ▾ | Printable statement

**WHAT THIS IS**  
This tool allows you to estimate your pension benefits from your pension plan at different ages.  
[VIEW DEMO](#)

**WHAT I KNOW**  
Date of birth: January 1, 1908  
Total years of service: 11.57  
Earned salary: \$50,000  
[SEE ALL PERSONAL AND DESIGNATED JOINT & SURVIVOR INFORMATION »](#)

**WHAT IF ...**  
My future annual earnings increase is: 0%

**RETIRE AT ...**

<input type="radio"/> Age 62	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Date 01-01-2042
<input type="radio"/> Age 64	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Date 01-01-2045
<input type="radio"/> Age 64	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Date 01-01-2045

[CALCULATE](#)

**YOUR ESTIMATED INCOME AT RETIREMENT**

■ Employer Pension Plan

Age	Estimated Income
Age 62	\$15,000
Age 64	\$23,000

[SHOW DETAILS »](#) [SHOW DETAILS »](#)

# POST RETIREMENT EMPLOYMENT

Hired Post Retirement as a...	Days allowed before pension suspension	Gross pay allowed before pension suspension	Time period
State Employee	0	\$0	N/A
Registered Nurse	75 (or 150 half days)	N/A	Calendar year
Classroom Instructor, Academic Advisor, or Coach at a State School or College	N/A	\$25,000	Calendar year
Drivers Ed Teacher	N/A	\$15,000	Calendar year
MERS Employee	75 (or 150 half days)	N/A	Calendar year
Teacher	90 (or 180 half days)	N/A	School year
Elected MERS official	Unlimited*	Unlimited*	N/A
Unpaid state or municipal board	Unlimited*	Unlimited*	N/A
Non Participating Municipality Employee	Unlimited	Unlimited	N/A

**Any employment or reemployment may begin no earlier than 45 days after separation/termination from employment.**

\* Unlimited except for those who previously worked and earned service credit as an elected official or board member.

# POST RETIREMENT EMPLOYMENT

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## Your employer's post retirement employment responsibilities:

- Retirement contributions will not be deducted from your wages and you will not earn any additional retirement service credit for any post-retirement employment.
- Reporting days worked or earnings depending on employment type to ERSRI on a monthly basis.
- Schools filling a vacant position must send letter to ERSRI and their union certifying a good faith effort was made to fill position with non-retiree. This includes coaching, tutoring and consulting. Vacant positions may only be filled by a retiree for 90 days.

## Your post retirement employment responsibilities:

- It is your responsibility to ensure that while collecting a retirement benefit your employment does not violate any statutory restrictions.
- Your post retirement earnings or days will be reported to ERSRI and available to review in your member portal at [www.ersri.org](http://www.ersri.org). It is your responsibility to ensure your employer is accurately reporting your employment. Please follow up with your employer if there is a discrepancy.
- No “mixing and matching.” You cannot participate in more than 1 area that is limited by statute.
- Post-retirement provisions apply if you are a consultant or corporation or employee of another party providing services to a ERS or MERS employer.

# IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

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## EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF RHODE ISLAND

**Address:** 50 Service Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Warwick, RI 02886

**Phone:** (401) 462-7600 | **Email:** [ersri@ersri.org](mailto:ersri@ersri.org) | **Website:** [www.ersri.org](http://www.ersri.org)

### OFFICE OF EMPLOYEE BENEFITS – RETIREE HEALTH (AGE 59 – 64)

One Capitol Hill,  
Providence, RI 02908  
(401) 574-8530

[doa.oeb@doa.ri.gov](mailto:doa.oeb@doa.ri.gov)

[www.employeebenefits.ri.gov](http://www.employeebenefits.ri.gov)

### TIAA – DC PLAN COORDINATOR

Providence Office  
(800) 897-1026

[www.tiaa.org](http://www.tiaa.org)

### VIA BENEFITS – RETIREE HEALTH (AGE 65+)

(844) 448-7298

[www.my.viabenefits.com/ri](http://www.my.viabenefits.com/ri)

### FEDERAL SOCIAL SECURITY

Providence Office  
(877) 402-0808

[www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

### THE HARTFORD - BASIC GROUP LIFE INSURANCE

(888) 755-1503

Group Policy Number is  
804857