

Benefits Handbook

Teachers' Pension System

*Alternate Contributory Pension Selection
For members enrolled before July 1, 2011*



MARYLAND
STATE RETIREMENT
and PENSION SYSTEM

Benefits Handbook

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For members enrolled before July 1, 2011*

Prepared by
The Maryland State Retirement Agency
120 East Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202-6700

410-625-5555
1-800-492-5909

Revised April 2021

Does this Handbook Apply to Me?

This benefits handbook is written specifically for members and retirees of the Teachers' Pension System who are subject to the Alternate Contributory Pension Selection. Please review the following information to determine if you are a member of this system.

Within the Teachers' Pension System there are four separate and distinct components:

1. The Non-Contributory Pension Benefit: Relevant only to members who were employed on or after January 1, 1980, and separated from employment before July 1, 1998.
2. The Contributory Pension Benefit: Relevant only to members who were employed as of July 1, 1998 but separated from employment before June 30, 2006.
3. **The Alternate Contributory Pension Selection: Generally relevant only to individuals who were employed as members on June 30, 2006, or who became employed as members after June 30, 2006 and before July 1, 2011.**¹
4. The Reformed Contributory Pension Benefit: Generally relevant only to members who either (a) were not employed as a member before July 1, 2011, or (b) were employed as a member before July 1, 2011, did not vest, and became employed as a member on or after July 1, 2011 after being separated from employment for more than four years.¹

The benefits provided by each of these separate components are different.

If you are unsure which component of the Teachers' Pension System applies to you, you can find out by:

- 1) Reviewing your most recent Personal Statement of Benefits. Your component is listed on the top of page two.
- 2) Reviewing your account in mySRPS. Your system is listed at the top of your Home page.
- 3) Contacting the Retirement Agency.

¹ A member who was subject to the Alternate Contributory Pension Selection, and resumes membership in the Teachers' Pension System on or after July 1, 2011 after a period of separation from employment, remains subject to the Alternate Contributory Pension Selection if the member:

- (a) Was vested prior to July 1, 2011 and has not withdrawn member contributions or retired;
- (b) Was separated from employment for 4 years or less; or
- (c) Was separated from employment for military service that meets the requirements of the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (known as "USERRA").

Otherwise, an individual who resumes membership in the Teachers' Pension System on or after July 1, 2011 after a period of separation from employment is subject to the Reformed Contributory Pension Benefit.

Message from the Board of Trustees

This booklet provides detailed information on the features and benefits of your retirement plan. Even though, as a member of the Teachers' Pension System who is subject to the Alternate Contributory Pension Selection, you are probably somewhat familiar with your benefits, this book explains them in everyday language. Major topics addressed are:

- Who is eligible for membership
- When membership ends
- How your benefits are funded
- How you earn service credit
- What benefits are provided
- What the eligibility requirements for the different benefits are
- How to calculate benefit income
- How to file for benefits
- What you need to know after retiring
- Where to get help with your retirement questions

The benefits described in this book are valuable to you and your family — not only when you retire, but now, while you work. We encourage you to use this booklet throughout your career and to contact the Maryland State Retirement Agency if you need assistance. Please note, however, that this booklet provides only a summary of the features and benefits of your pension plan. Pension provisions summarized in this document are set forth in the State Personnel and Pensions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and Title 22 of the Code of Maryland Regulations. If there are any questions of interpretation, the provisions of the State Personnel and Pensions Article and regulations will control to resolve them.

Throughout your career it's wise to take an active interest in your retirement plan. That's why the Retirement Agency offers a number of resources to keep you informed of benefit matters affecting you now and in the future. You may access your account online by using the mySRPS secure access participant portal. Please see our website at sra.maryland.gov for more information. The Retirement Agency creates an annual Personal Statement of Benefits for you each fall, and publishes newsletters, *The Mentor* for members and *Retiree News & Notes* for retirees. You may also reach a retirement benefits specialist at 410-625-5555 or toll-free at 1-800-492-5909 with any questions you have.

You should also be aware of other benefits, such as health insurance, which may continue through your employer after you retire. Contact your personnel office for more information.

Each of you has our very best wishes for a successful career.

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personal illness, birth or legal adoption of a child, temporary employment with another governmental employer, and study.

Retirement Coordinator

An employee, usually a personnel officer of a participating employer, who is trained to assist members with basic retirement matters such as the completion of SRPS forms.

SRA

State Retirement Agency. The state agency that administers the State Retirement and Pension System.

SRPS

Maryland State Retirement and Pension System