



OKLAHOMA TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Plan Summary 2010-2011

BEGINNINGS

The Oklahoma Teachers Retirement System (the System) was established July 1, 1943, to provide retirement allowances and other specified benefits for qualified employees of state-supported educational institutions.

ADMINISTRATION

A 13-member Board of Trustees oversees the administration of the System and acts as fiduciary for investing its funds.

CONTRIBUTIONS

As a member of the System, your contribution rate is 7% of your total compensation (salary and your fringe benefits).

Statutes also require employers to contribute a percentage of applicable employee earnings. The employer contribution rate for K-12 school districts, career-techs, and junior colleges is 9.5%. The employer contribution rate for comprehensive universities (University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University and their entities) and the state's four-year regional universities is 8.55%.

MEMBERSHIP

Oklahoma statutes require classified personnel to be members of the System. The definition of classified personnel in 70 O.S., § 17-101 includes teachers and other certified employees of common schools, faculty and administrators in public colleges and universities, and administrative personnel of state educational boards and agencies who are employed at least half-time. Membership is optional for all other regular employees of public educational institutions who work at least 20 hours per week.

Employers of a charter school may join the System if the Oklahoma Teachers Retirement System Board of Trustees approves the school's application for membership.

New employees at the University of Oklahoma, OU Health Sciences Center, and Oklahoma State University have the option to participate in an alternate retirement plan provided by the universities. Employees choosing the alternate retirement plan are not eligible to participate in the System as long as they remain employees of the universities.

SERVICE CREDIT

You must work at least six full school months to qualify for one year of membership. A school month is 20 school days of at least six hours. You will receive partial credit for employment of fewer than six months or between four and six hours per school day. You also may purchase credit for out-of-state service, military service, service with certain Oklahoma governmental entities, and employment in Oklahoma schools before your date of membership.

Retiring members may count up to 120 days of unused accumulated sick leave toward an additional year of service credit.

RETIREMENT ANNUITY

You are fully vested after five years of contributory Oklahoma membership service. A vested member can receive benefits after satisfying eligibility requirements.

Members joining the System before July 1, 1992, may retire with unreduced benefits when age and years of creditable service total 80 (Rule of 80). Members joining the System after June 30, 1992, may retire with unreduced benefits when age and years of creditable service total 90 (Rule of 90).

You may retire at age 62 with unreduced benefits after completing five years of Oklahoma service.

You may retire with reduced benefits as early as age 55, if you have at least five years of creditable Oklahoma service.

The Oklahoma Teachers Retirement System is a governmental defined benefit plan under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. The retirement benefits paid to our members are not determined by the market value of their retirement account, but rather by a formula. The formula includes years of service and highest average salary multiplied by a 2% computation factor.

The final average salary is not limited to the highest average salary defined under the Rule of 80 (highest three salaries) or Rule of 90 (highest five consecutive salaries), but may include any years previously capped.

The Education Employees Service Incentive Plan (EESIP) provides the opportunity for capped years to be diminished by two years for every one year worked beyond the full retirement eligibility date. If salaries earned prior to July 1, 1995 are greater than \$40,000, there will be a cost to participate in EESIP. Clients retiring from a four year university, college or other related entity are not eligible to participate in this plan.

If you work for a comprehensive university (OU/OSU) or other associated entity, your retirement benefit calculation may involve a multi-step process. First, we will determine your capped average salary prior to July 1, 1995. Next we will determine your capped average salary between July 1, 1995 and June 30, 2007. Finally, years of service that did not meet the caps as well as service credit earned after July 1, 2007, will be incorporated into the retirement benefit formula using the highest average of actual total compensation, not to exceed the IRS compensation limits. There may be as few as one average salary or as many as four weighted averages to determine the final average salary used in the final benefit calculation.

Each of the Systems's five retirement plans provides a lifetime benefit to the member. After the member's death, the designated beneficiary(ies) receive either a lump-sum payment or continued payments to one beneficiary, depending upon the elected plan's provisions.

DISABILITY BENEFITS

You may qualify for disability retirement benefits if a medical condition keeps you from performing your regular duties as a public school employee. You may be considered for an Oklahoma Teachers Retirement System disability retirement benefit if you have at least 10 years of contributory service, you submit a disability retirement application detailing your medical condition (which must have existed while you were employed by the public schools of Oklahoma), and your application is approved by the System's Medical Review Board and the Board of Trustees.

If you are awarded Social Security Disability benefits, you qualify for disability benefits with the System if you incur the disability while employed by the public schools and provide the System with proof of the Social Security award.

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HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFIT

If you have at least 10 years of creditable service and retire or terminate your employment, you may elect to continue coverage in

the insurance program your employer provides to active employees.

If you are not enrolled in the state plan, coverage is subject to the provisions of the plan in which you are enrolled.

Dependent and dental coverage is available if you are enrolled in the State and Education Employees Group Health and Dental Insurance Plan.

Once you begin receiving monthly retirement checks, Oklahoma Teachers Retirement System will pay for the first \$100 to \$105 of monthly premiums for you, but not for your dependents. The actual amount paid by the System is determined by your total service and average salary at retirement.

If you have fewer than 10 years of employment, you have certain rights under federal law to continue health insurance coverage after your employment ends. You should request information about continued coverage from your school's payroll office or the State and Education Group Insurance Board before termination.

SURVIVOR BENEFITS

Your designated beneficiary or estate is entitled to survivor benefits if you are a member of the System when you die.

If you are an active in-service member when you die, your beneficiary(ies) will receive an \$18,000 death benefit, plus the contributions in your account and interest on those contributions. "Active in-service" is defined in the Oklahoma Teachers Retirement System rules, but generally means a member currently employed by an Oklahoma public education institution. When you die, if you are an active in-service member with 10 or more years of service, have reached age 55 or met the Rule of 80 or Rule of 90 and you have one designated primary beneficiary, he or she may choose a monthly benefit instead of the lump-sum payment.

If you are an inactive member when you die, your beneficiaries will receive the amount of the contributions in your account, plus interest on those contributions, but will not qualify for the \$18,000 death benefit or the monthly retirement benefit payment payable to the surviving beneficiary of active in-service members.

If you die after you retire, your beneficiary or estate will receive a \$5,000 death benefit, plus the survivor benefits provided by your chosen retirement plan. Certain retirement plan options provide your surviving beneficiary(ies) with a continuing monthly retirement benefit.

WITHDRAWING YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

If you leave the job that qualified you for membership, you may request a refund of your contributions any time after your last day on that job. You will be eligible to receive the refund four months after you leave your job. The refund includes all contributions made by you or on your behalf by your employer, plus any applicable portion of interest earnings. When you accept a refund, you forfeit all service credit.

If you return to qualifying employment, you may redeposit your withdrawn account after you contribute to the System for 12 months.

Redepositing your withdrawn contributions reinstates your initial membership date. If you do not redeposit your withdrawn contributions, your official membership date will be the date you rejoined the System.

If you decide to redeposit, you must redeposit the entire amount you withdrew and pay 10% simple interest on that amount for each year your account was withdrawn. You may pay this amount in one lump sum or through installment payments for up to 60 months.

Only an optional member (support personnel) can terminate membership in the System without terminating employment. If you are an optional member and withdraw your account without leaving your job, the IRS requires that pre-tax contributions remain on deposit and cannot be refunded until you leave your job.

If you continue working for your employer after terminating your membership, you can rejoin the System only under special provisions of an Internal Revenue Service private letter ruling requiring a period of non-membership and loss of the right to redeposit withdrawn service or purchase prior service credits. In

this case, you would become a new member as of the date you rejoin.

You also may leave your contributions in your account. If you are vested (have at least five years if Oklahoma service), your account will continue earning interest until you withdraw it or begin drawing your retirement benefit. If you are not vested, your account will continue earning interest for five years, unless you withdraw it before then.

THE 403(b) TAX SHELTERED ANNUITY PLAN

The System sponsors a tax sheltered annuity program qualified under § 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code. You may deposit funds into this plan if your local Board of Education or other governing board adopts a resolution making the plan available to its employees.

The tax sheltered annuity program has been managed internally since its inception in 1964. In July 2009, the Board of Trustees hired ING Life Insurance and Annuity Company to be the service provider for the 403(b) Plan.

Under the new plan, participants may access their accounts 24 hours a day by calling a toll-free number or via the internet. Customer service representatives are available each weekday from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. The investments are flexible and diversified and there are fifteen options to choose from.

The most exciting feature of the new plan is the comprehensive educational strategy developed by ING. A dedicated representative from ING will be available to meet with you at least annually to discuss your retirement goals and needs.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Oklahoma Teachers Retirement System publications provide answers to general questions. You are responsible for resolving any questions about your retirement account. You are entitled to counseling from the staff concerning any questions you have about your retirement account. The System will not be held accountable for information that is contrary to statutes or administrative rules, regardless of who provides that information.

For details of how statutes and administrative rules may affect your retirement account, contact

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<http://www.ok.gov/TRS>

This Plan Summary provides general information summarizing the basic benefits available to members of the System. If conflict arises between information contained in this summary and state statutes or official Oklahoma Teachers Retirement System rules, the law and/or rule takes precedence.

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