



Teachers' Retirement System

of the State of Kentucky

479 Versailles Road
Frankfort, KY 40601-3800
800-618-1687

TRS 1, TRS 2 and TRS 3

Teachers' Retirement System Basics

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Overview

This Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) Basics is for members in TRS 1, TRS 2 or TRS 3 who entered TRS on or before Dec. 31, 2021.

TRS offers these members a defined benefit retirement that pays a guaranteed lifetime retirement benefit based on length of service, final average salary, a multiplier and the payment option chosen. Retirement eligibility is determined by age and/or years of service.

TRS is administered by an 11-member Board of Trustees that includes seven members directly elected annually by retirees and active members to staggered, four-year terms. The other members are the state education commissioner, the state treasurer and two gubernatorial appointees with financial experience.

TRS Account Types		
TRS has four account types based on date of entry.		
TRS 1	TRS 2	TRS 3
Entry before July 1, 2002	Entry on or between July 1, 2002, and June 30, 2008	Entry on or between July 1, 2008, and Dec. 31, 2021
TRS 4 is for members who entered on or after Jan. 1, 2022. Information for those members is on a separate TRS Basics.		

Membership

Non-university employees: TRS membership is mandatory for positions with TRS employers that require either certification or graduation from a four-year college or university. Additionally, any person teaching part time or as a substitute shall be a member, regardless of whether certification or graduation is required, if the services are the same or similar to those provided by full-time, certified teachers. Non-university employees contribute to TRS, but not to Social Security, because TRS benefits for non-university employees replace Social Security.

University employees: University employees are eligible to participate with TRS if employed on a full-time basis and in a position that requires either certification or graduation from a four-year college or university. University employees contribute to Social Security and TRS because university employees receive a proportionate TRS benefit that complements Social Security.

Employee Contribution Rates	
Non-university	University
12.855%	8.185%
These mandatory salary contributions to TRS are pretax and include a percentage for retiree health insurance.	

Defining Employment

Full time for retirement purposes is employment in a position that requires services on a continuing basis equal to at least seven-tenths of the normal full-time contract for any fiscal year.

Part time for retirement purposes is any employment that is less than full time or less than seven-tenths of the normal full-time contract for any fiscal year. Members providing part-time and substitute services for a non-university employer (since July 1, 2002) participate in TRS and receive retirement credit.

Retirement Eligibility

TRS 1 & TRS 2	TRS 3
No penalty 27 years at any age Age 60 with five years	No penalty 27 years at any age Age 60 with five years
Penalty (up to 25%) Age 55 with five years	Penalty (up to 30%) Age 55 with 10 years
Age eligibility is reached on the first of the month following a member's birthday.	

Beneficiary Designations

Failure to designate beneficiaries – and keep those designations current – can result in benefits for survivors not being provided as you would wish. TRS members make beneficiary designations for life insurance and for the member account. In the event of an active member's death, beneficiaries receive the life insurance benefit and the retirement contributions in the account unless the account is eligible to be retired. If you are married, your spouse is eligible for survivorship benefits unless you subsequently have named someone else as primary beneficiary or co-beneficiary. If you are not naming your spouse as primary beneficiary, your spouse will have to sign an acknowledgment.

Annual Statements

Each fall, TRS sends an annual statement of account. The statement shows yearly salary history and service credit as reported by employers, account interest and beneficiary designations. During your career, the annual statement is one of the most important retirement planning documents you will receive. The accuracy of the information is important to determining your retirement benefit amounts and serves as the basis for estimates of your retirement benefits.

TRS routinely audits member accounts to maintain accurate information, but you can help that effort by reviewing your statement for accuracy. If you think your account has an error, contact TRS or your employer. Correction of certain errors requires verification by the employer.

Using Pathway

Pathway (<https://mss.trs.gov>) is TRS's secure, online site that provides members and employers direct access to retirement accounts. Pathway allows members to update personal information; create and view benefit estimates; apply for retirement; view annual statements; register for seminars and webinars; and vote in Board of Trustees elections. A how-to-register video is available at <https://trs.ky.gov/home/seminars-workshops/videos/#pregis>.

Always Keep Addresses Current with TRS

It is important to keep your email and physical addresses current with TRS. Some information is provided through email, in addition to newsletters, Board of Trustees election ballots, annual statements, special notices and other documents that are mailed. Changing addresses with an employer does not change the information with TRS.

Contacting TRS



Address

479 Versailles Road, Frankfort, KY 40601



Hours

8 a.m. – 5 p.m. ET Monday – Friday



Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/KyTeachersRS>



Website

<https://trs.ky.gov>



Email

info@trs.ky.gov



Pathway

<https://mss.trs.ky.gov/>



Toll-free

800-618-1687



Local

502-848-8500



Twitter

@KyTeachersRS

This is general information. The law prevails in the event of a conflict with this publication. Contact TRS prior to making retirement decisions.