



## ? What happens to my sick leave when I retire?

Sick leave is a benefit of employment, and is subject to the authority of your employing agency. However, unused sick leave is an important part of your retirement because it can increase your monthly benefit when converted to service credit.

TRSL will convert your unused sick leave to service credit **after** you have submitted an official application for retirement and your final benefit is calculated.

## Can I use my sick leave to become eligible for retirement?

Unused sick leave cannot be used to attain eligibility for retirement. Eligibility must first be attained then unused sick leave credit is used to calculate the final amount of your retirement benefit.

## How much service credit will I get from my sick leave?

State law governs the accrual, determination, and conversion of unused sick leave to service credit for retirement purposes.

*NOTE: Members often assume that the sick leave balance they have accumulated with their employer determines how much is eligible for conversion to retirement credit. However, the amount of unused sick leave eligible for conversion is determined instead by a formula specified in state law that depends on when the sick leave was earned:*

- **On or before June 30, 1988**
- **On or after July 1, 1988**

### Sick leave on or before 6/30/88

For retirement purposes, accumulation of leave is determined by the member's contract and years of service:

- **9-month** employees earn 10 days per year
- **10-month** employees earn 11 days per year
- **11- and 12-month** employees earn:
  - » 12 days per year for the first three years
  - » 15 days per year for the next seven years
  - » 18 days per year for all years over 10

Both 9- and 10-month employees who work extra summer months accumulate one extra day or a portion thereof for each additional month of full-time service.

After determining the days accumulated, the days of sick leave used by the member are subtracted. This leaves the remaining balance of unused sick leave days that will be converted to service credit according to **Table 1: Unused Sick Leave Conversion.**

### Sick leave on or after 7/1/88

For retirement purposes, accumulation of leave is determined by the member's contract and years of service:

- **9-month** employees earn 10 days per year
- **10-month** employees earn 11 days per year
- **11- and 12-month** employees earn:
  - » 12 days per year for the first 10 years
  - » 18 days per year for all years over 10

After determining the days accumulated, the days of sick leave used by the member and the number of days which were paid by the employer are subtracted. This leaves the remaining balance of unused sick leave days that will be converted to service credit according to **Table 2: Unused Sick Leave Conversion.**

*NOTE: Conversion of unused sick leave credit earned on or after July 1, 1990, is capped at one (1) year.*



**At their discretion, your employer may pay you up to 25 days of unused sick leave at your daily rate of pay upon retiring or entering DROP. The balance of your unused sick leave days (which is eligible for conversion to service credit) will be reduced by the number of sick leave days paid to you by your employer.**

**Example:** A 9-month contract member retires with 30 years of service credit. The member worked 7 years on or before June 30, 1988, using 20 sick leave days during that time period, and worked 23 years on or after July 1, 1988, using 82 sick leave days during that time period. The member is paid 25 days of unused sick leave by their employer upon retiring.

### Sick leave is converted as follows:

#### Sick leave on or before June 30, 1988:

7 years × 10 sick days earned per year = 70 sick leave days

70 days - 20 sick days used = 50 unused sick leave days

**TOTAL:** Under **Table 1**, 50 unused sick leave days converts to **0.5 year of service credit**

*NOTE: There is no cap on the amount of unused sick leave earned on or before June 30, 1988 that can be converted to service credit.*

#### Sick leave on or after July 1, 1988:

23 years × 10 sick days earned per year = 230 sick leave days

230 days - 82 sick days used - 25 days paid = 123 unused sick leave days

**TOTAL:** Under **Table 2**, the 9-month employee's 123 unused sick leave days converts to **0.7 year of service credit**

*NOTE: Conversion of unused sick leave credit earned on or after July 1, 1990, is capped at one (1) year.*

#### Total service credit earned for retirement benefit calculation:

**0.5 year + 0.7 year = 1.2 years of service credit**

**Table 1: Unused Sick Leave Conversion**  
Sick leave earned on or before June 30, 1988

Sick day balance	Service credit earned	Sick day balance	Service credit earned
25 - 45 days	0.25 years	361 - 405 days	2.25 years
46 - 90 days	0.50 years	406 - 450 days	2.50 years
91 - 135 days	0.75 years	451 - 495 days	2.75 years
136 - 180 days	1.00 years	496 - 540 days	3.00 years
181 - 225 days	1.25 years	541 - 585 days	3.25 years
226 - 270 days	1.50 years	586 - 630 days	3.50 years
271 - 315 days	1.75 years	631 - 675 days	3.75 years
316 - 360 days	2.00 years	676 - 720 days	4.00 years

**Table 2: Unused Sick Leave Conversion**  
Sick leave earned on or after July 1, 1988

Sick day balance				Service credit earned
9-month employees	10-month employees	11-month employees	12-month employees	
10 - 18 days	11 - 20 days	12 - 22 days	13 - 24 days	0.1 year
19 - 36 days	21 - 40 days	23 - 44 days	25 - 48 days	0.2 year
37 - 54 days	41 - 60 days	45 - 66 days	49 - 72 days	0.3 year
55 - 72 days	61 - 80 days	67 - 88 days	73 - 96 days	0.4 year
73 - 90 days	81 - 100 days	89 - 110 days	97 - 120 days	0.5 year
91 - 108 days	101 - 120 days	111 - 132 days	121 - 144 days	0.6 year
109 - 126 days	121 - 140 days	133 - 154 days	145 - 168 days	0.7 year
127 - 144 days	141 - 160 days	155 - 176 days	169 - 192 days	0.8 year
145 - 162 days	161 - 180 days	177 - 198 days	193 - 216 days	0.9 year
163 - 180 days	181 - 200 days	199 - 220 days	217 - 240 days	1.0 year



**Member Access tip**

You can view your sick leave online (as reported by your employer) in your Member Access account at [www.TRSL.org](http://www.TRSL.org).

**Can I purchase unused sick leave?**

Even after TRSL converts unused sick leave to one year of service credit, some members may still have unused sick days left. These individuals can purchase the remaining balance for conversion to additional service credit if the leave was earned on or after July 1, 1990.

Once your benefit is finalized, TRSL will notify you if you have any remaining unused sick leave credit eligible for purchase.

**FOR STATE AND SCHOOL BOARD EMPLOYEES: A certain portion of unused annual leave can also be converted to service credit. More information on annual leave is available in the TRSL Member Handbook.**

**We're here to help!**

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