

A TRSL User's Guide

for new members



Whether you are just starting your career or have years of experience, it's important to understand the basics of your TRSL membership.


As a member of TRSL, you're on the path to a secure financial future. With every paycheck, you're saving for a retirement that will provide you with a lifetime income stream once you're eligible to retire. Plus, you can provide a lifetime benefit for your beneficiary, if you choose.

Your TRSL Retirement Benefit is *Secure*

Here are **three** reasons TRSL provides **stability** you can rely on:



With TRSL, you have a **defined benefit retirement plan**. That means your retirement benefit is based on your years of service and your final average salary.



Your TRSL retirement benefit is **not tied** to the ups and downs of the **stock market**.



Your TRSL **retirement benefit is guaranteed** by the Louisiana Constitution.

When am I eligible to retire?

You must meet certain age and service credit requirements to retire. Those requirements are based upon the TRSL plan you are in (Regular Plan or Plan B) and when you first joined one of Louisiana's four state retirement systems.

How is my retirement funded?

You pay a percentage of your salary (8% for Regular Plan members; 5% for Plan B members) for your retirement. That money, along with contributions from your employer, is pooled and invested by TRSL. Investment earnings fund your future lifetime retirement benefit.



Notes

Most members belong to the Regular Plan. School food service personnel who participate in Social Security belong to Plan B.

How *your* benefit is calculated

The formula to calculate your maximum retirement benefit is set by state law.

Formula	Example	You Try
Years of Service Credit	30 years	_____ years
×	×	×
Final Average Compensation (FAC)	\$58,000 FAC	_____ FAC
×	×	×
Benefit Factor (2.0% or 2.5%)	2.5% benefit factor	Benefit Factor (2.0% or 2.5%)
=	=	=
Maximum Benefit	\$43,500 maximum benefit (\$3,625 per month)	_____ maximum benefit (\$ _____ per month)

SERVICE CREDIT: Members earn a full year of service credit for each full year worked, regardless of whether the employment contract is 9, 10, 11, or 12 months.

FINAL AVERAGE COMPENSATION (FAC): A 3- or 5-year average of a member's highest years of salary consecutively earned from entire salary history (based upon when member first joined one of Louisiana's four state retirement systems for teachers, school employees, state employees, and state police). Subject to certain salary caps.

- **3-year FAC:** first joined before January 1, 2011
- **5-year FAC:** first joined on or after January 1, 2011

NOTE: Louisiana's state retirement systems include TRSL (teachers), LASERS (state employees), LSERS (school employees), and the LSPRS (state police).

A valuable Membership

With five years of TRSL service credit, you are vested and may be eligible for the following valuable TRSL benefits:

- **Survivor benefits for your family.** Should you die during active service, TRSL survivor benefits provide added financial security for your spouse and/or minor children.
- **Deferred retirement option.** If you leave your TRSL-covered job, you can leave your contributions with TRSL and apply for retirement once you reach the age of eligibility.

With 10 years of TRSL service credit, you may be eligible for:

- **Disability retirement.** If you acquire a disability while in active service that prevents you from working, a TRSL disability retirement can be a critical source of income.



As a TRSL member, you can access your personal retirement account information and handle certain self-service functions as outlined in the right-hand sidebar.



TRSL MEMBER HANDBOOK: REGULAR PLAN & PLAN B

For more information regarding TRSL membership plans, including benefit factors and retirement options, please see the *TRSL Member Handbook* at www.TRSL.org.

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Sign up now for Member Access

It's a great time to register for online access to your retirement account.

Member Access is a secure, online portal that puts your retirement information right at your fingertips.

Registering for Member Access is easy.

Visit www.TRSL.org, click *Member Access* and follow the instructions.



With Member Access you can:

View your employee service credit contributions, beneficiaries, and annual statements.

Calculate your future benefit.

Update your name and address.

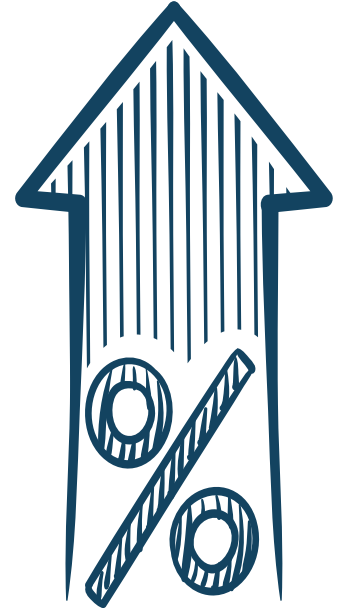
Apply for retirement.



More online resources

Subscribe to TRSL's *eNews* for important updates.

Get help with retirement questions at www.AskTRSL.org.



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