

# Early Career

December 10, 2024



# Friendly reminders

- This presentation contains general information to be used as a guide during the webinar. For more information, please visit <u>www.TRSL.org</u>
- All participants are muted.
  - Have a question? Type your question in the Q&A Box.
  - We will answer questions during the webinar and at Q&A periods.
- This webinar will be recorded. Our recordings & PDFs are available at www.trsl.org/members/webinars
- Check out our YouTube page @TRSLOnline

If you have any specific questions about your retirement, please contact us at <u>AskTRSL.org</u> so we can look up your account and assist you directly.



#### Agenda

- Types of TRSL retirement plans
- How your retirement is funded & calculated
- New TRSL member retirement eligibility
- Purchases & transfers of service credit
- Other TRSL benefits
- Withdrawing member contributions
- Community property
- TRSL & Social Security
- Member Access & TRSL website overview



### What is TRSL?

- Public trust fund established in 1936
  - » Defined benefit plan
  - » Largest public retirement system in Louisiana
- Benefits guaranteed by the state constitution





# TRSL retirement plans

#### Regular Plan

Most TRSL members, including teachers, administrators, support staff, and university personnel, etc.

#### Plan B

School food service employees in 20 parishes



# How your retirement is funded

Members pay a percentage of salary toward retirement:

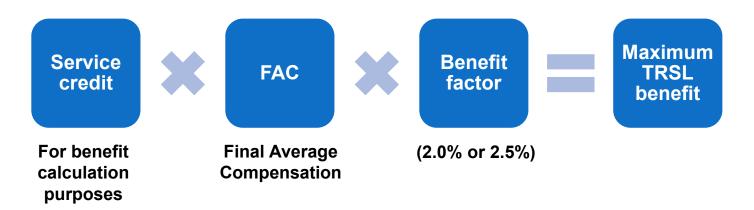
Regular Plan	8.0%
Plan B (also contributes to SSA)	5.0%

- Employers also pay contributions toward your retirement; the amount is based upon plan type.
- TRSL pools and invests employee and employer contributions.
- Investment earnings fund your lifetime retirement benefits.



# How your benefit is calculated

State law defines the benefit formula used to calculate the maximum TRSL benefit for which you are eligible:





# How you earn service credit

- Service credit is based on the amount of time you work and contribute to TRSL.
- You cannot earn more than 1.00 year of service credit in a 12-month period (July 1-June 30).
- It is rounded to the closest one-tenth of a year (not to exceed 100% of a year) only at the time of retirement or entering DROP.



# Final Average Compensation (FAC)

Membership in state retirement system prior to January 1, 2011	Membership in state retirement system on or after January 1, 2011
Based on <u>3 highest</u> consecutive years of salary	Based on <u>5 highest</u> consecutive years of salary
State law places a <u>10% cap</u> on salary increases in each of the <u>3</u> years used to determine the average compensation.	State law places a <u>15% cap</u> on salary increases in each of the <u>5</u> years used to determine the average compensation.

NOTE: Salary cap does not apply to increases given by legislative acts (state raises) or city/parish/college/university system-wide increases. There is also a 25% limit on salary increases for the 12 months during which a classroom teacher changes employment to that of a classroom teacher in another parish.



### Benefit factors

The benefit factor used to calculate your retirement benefit is based on TRSL plan membership and date of enrollment.

TRSL Plan Type	Benefit Factor	
Regular Plan (TRSL membership prior to 7/1/99)	2.0% or 2.5%	
<b>Regular Plan</b> (TRSL membership on or after 7/1/99)	2.5%	
Plan B	2.0%	



#### New TRSL Member Regular Plan Retirement Eligibility

#### Eligibility requirements (by plan)

#### Regular Plan (between 1/1/11 and 6/30/15):

- At least age 60 with at least 5 years of service credit, or
- 20 years of service at any age (actuarially reduced)

#### Regular Plan (on or after 7/1/15):

- At least age 62 with at least 5 years of service credit, or
- 20 years of service at any age (actuarially reduced)

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Members hired prior to 1/1/11 have different eligibilities for retirement.



# Purchases & transfers of service credit

Service credit can be purchased for eligible periods of service for which you do not already have TRSL service credit:

Refunded service credit

Military service

Actuarial purchases

Actuarial transfers

Reciprocal recognition of service credit

NOTE: Any purchases, transfers, or reciprocals must be completed before the effective date of your retirement or DROP participation.



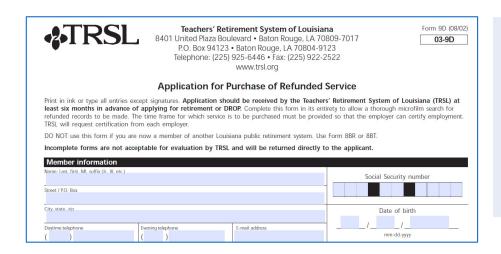
# Purchases & transfers of service credit

- For purchases, members will need to submit a nonrefundable calculation fee that should accompany the application.
  - » Calculation fee not required for purchases of refunded service credit and USERRA service credit.
- TRSL's actuary calculates the liability of TRSL having to pay out a benefit sooner than expected. In general, the closer you are to retirement eligibility, the cost to purchase will be greater.



#### Refunded service credit

- Withdrawn TRSL contributions (all or a portion) can be restored.
- There is no actuarial fee (cost calculated by TRSL staff)
- Cost to restore = amount withdrawn + interest (annual rate of 7.50%\*, compounded daily) \*as of 7/1/17



PLEASE NOTE:
If you plan to
purchase service
credit, it must be
certified by your
employer before
you retire.



# Eligible actuarial purchases

Legal leaves of absence	Sabbatical leave
Substitute teaching service	Involuntary furlough
Local/state public employment	Out-of-state public school service
Nonpublic/private school service (in-state only)	Non-TRSL participating charter school service
Military service (non USERRA)	U.S. dependent school teaching service

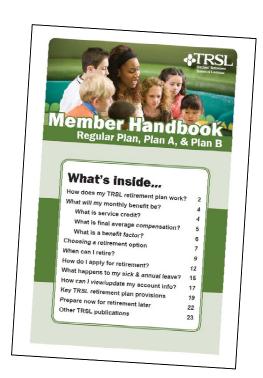
Must include salary at the time of employment for an actuarial purchase estimate and it also must first be certified by your employer.

These purchases require a non-refundable fee of \$150 payable to TRSL (actuarial cost)



#### Other TRSL benefits

- Members who have five years of TRSL service credit are considered "vested."
- Being vested means you are eligible for valuable benefits and financial protection through TRSL:
  - » Survivor benefits
  - » Deferred retirement
  - » Disability retirement\*
    - \* 10 years required if hired on or after 1/11/11





## Withdrawing member contributions

- Terminate all TRSL-covered employment
- Mandatory 90-day waiting period
- Refund includes only your contributions
  - » Partial withdrawals are not allowed
  - » A refund cannot be borrowed against debt
  - » Subject to federal tax withholding if not rolled over by TRSL and may be subject to early withdrawal penalty
- Form 7 (Application for Refund) is available at www.TRSL.org.



# TRSL & Social Security

- Louisiana does not pay into Social Security for the majority of its public employees.
- However, you may still be eligible for Social Security through other employment or through your spouse's employment.
- The type of Social Security benefit you are eligible for determines which offset provision applies to you.
  - » Government Pension Offset (GPO) 1982
  - » Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) 1985
- TRSL benefits are not reduced. For detailed information about your Social Security benefit, please contact the Social Security Administration at www.ssa.gov



### Summary

- TRSL is a defined benefit plan, which guarantees a benefit based on a formula, not your contributions.
- TRSL lifetime retirement benefits are funded through member contributions, employer contributions, and investment income.
- If you have any purchases or transfers of service credit, this could increase your retirement benefit. You would want to consider this earlier in your career than later.
- Once you reach 5 years of service with TRSL, you will receive a letter that states you are vested in our system.



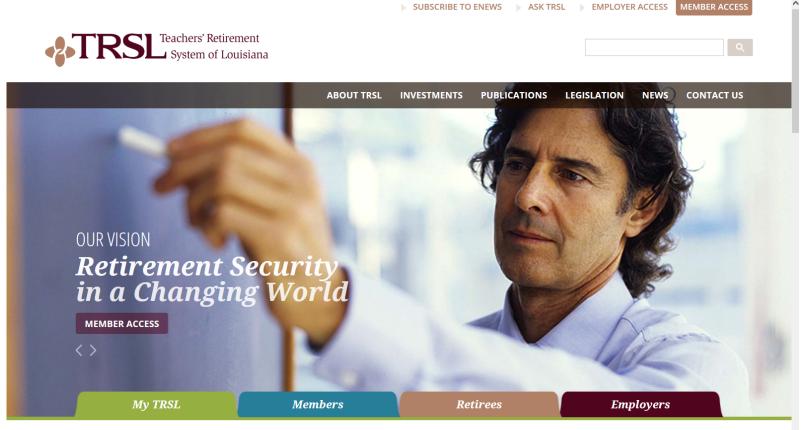


- Calculate future retirement estimates
- Update name & mailing/email address
- Apply for retirement/DROP

- View DROP account
- View beneficiary(ies)
- View annual statements

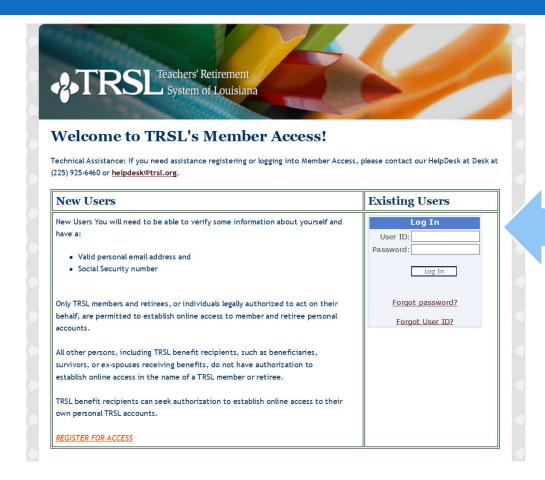


### **Member Access**



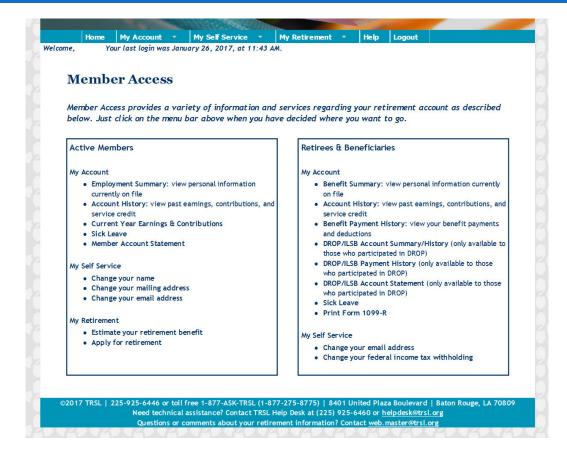


# Register for access



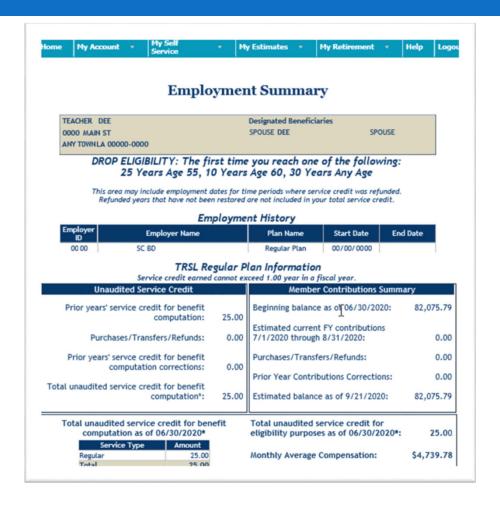


### Member Access



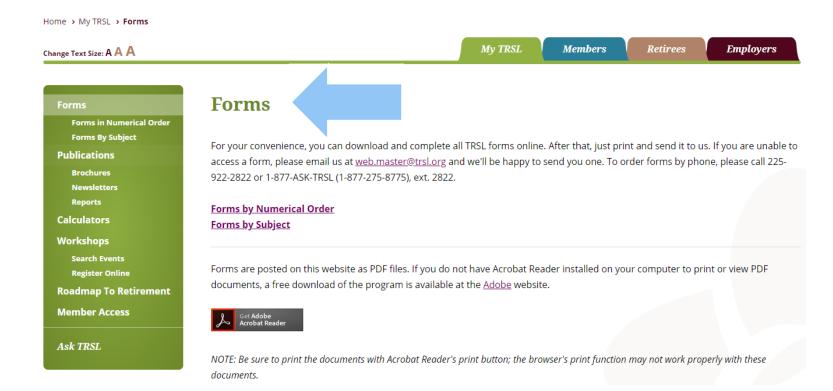


# **Employment Summary**



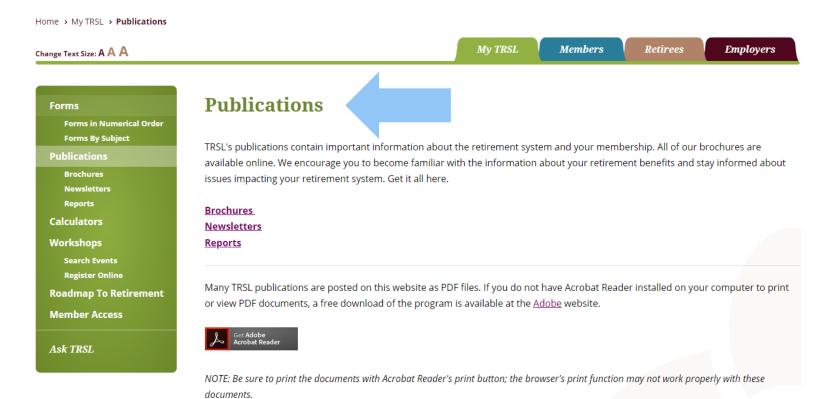


### TRSL forms





# TRSL publications





#### TRSL member webinars

Home > Members > Webinars

Change Text Size: A A A

My TRSL

Members

Retirees

Employers

**Your Retirement** What Are My Benefits? When Can I Retire? How Do I Retire? What About My Leave? Can I See My TRSL Account? How Do I Get A Refund? **Optional Programs** DROP Initial Lump-Sum Benefit **Social Security Offsets Purchase Service** Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) Workshops Search Events **Register Online** Webinars Roadmap to Retirement **Inactive Members Member FAQs Member Access** LINKS Newsletter Subscribe to eNews Ask TRSL

#### **Member Webinars (Online Seminars)**

These online sessions offer topic-specific information on your TRSL retirement and benefits, including retirement eligibility requirements and information on the optional programs, DROP and ILSB. They are usually offered once a month and are open to any TRSL members or employers. They are conducted via the Internet and usually last about 30 minutes.

Upon registration, you will receive instructions on how to log in, view, and listen to the webinar. You will also receive a reminder email a day before the webinar.

#### **Search Events**

If you have any questions regarding member webinars, please contact us at retire.edu@trsl.org.

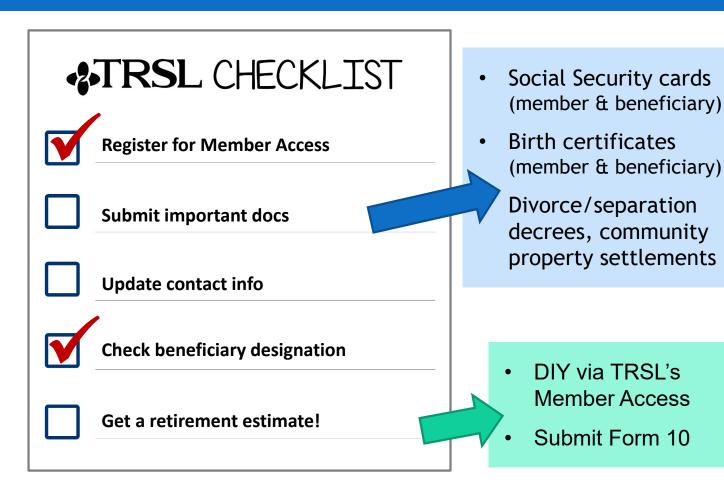
#### Missed a webinar?

Click the icons below to view a PDF or watch a previously recorded webinar presentation. To view the webinar, you will need to provide your name and email address.

VIEW PDF	WATCH
2018 Legislative Updates	
Early Career Webinar Series - Part 1	D
Early Career Webinar Series - Part 2	D
l've Completed DROP What's Next?	



### Things to do now





















### We are here for you!



Local phone: (225) 925-6446

**Toll free (outside Baton Rouge):** 1-877-ASK-TRSL (1-877-275-8775)

Website: www.TRSL.org

**Questions:** AskTRSL.org







