Friendly reminders

• This presentation contains general information.
• It is meant to be used as a guide during the webinar.
• All participants are muted during the webinar.
• Have a question?
  » Type your question in the “Questions” area. The moderator will see it and respond.
  » There will be a Q&A period at the end of the webinar.
• Please maximize your screen size to have full use of the webinar’s features.
Go To Webinar features

Type your question here.
Today’s 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
Most TRSL members, including teachers, administrators, support staff, and university personnel, etc.

School food service employees in 20 parishes.
How your retirement is funded

• Members pay a percentage of salary toward retirement:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Plan</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan B (also contributes to SSA)</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Service credit × FAC × Benefit factor = Maximum TRSL benefit

For benefit calculation purposes

Final Average Compensation

(2.0% or 2.5%)
How you earn service credit

- Service credit is based on the amount of time you work and contribute to TRSL.

- You earn 100% of a year for each full contract year worked.

- 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.

- Members can earn credit for part-time employment.
## Final Average Compensation (FAC)

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

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRSL Plan Type</th>
<th>Benefit Factor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regular Plan</strong> <em>(TRSL membership prior to 7/1/99)</em></td>
<td>2.0% or 2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regular Plan</strong> <em>(TRSL membership on or after 7/1/99)</em></td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plan B</strong></td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New TRSL Member Retirement Eligibility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligibility requirements (by plan)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regular Plan (between 1/1/11 and 6/30/15):</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 5 years of service at age 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 20 years of service at any age (actuarially reduced)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plan B (prior to 7/1/15):</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 5 years of service at age 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 30 years of service at age 55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regular Plan &amp; Plan B (on or after 7/1/15):</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 5 years of service at age 62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 20 years of service at any age (actuarially reduced)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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.
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

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

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).
Ineligible actuarial purchases

- Any type of student employment (including graduate assistant or student teaching)
- Worker’s compensation time - if member chose to pay contributions on worker’s comp pay instead of full salary rate
- Any type of federal employment
- Most types of contracted work
- Employment in private industry
- Employment outside the U.S. (unless U.S. dependent school or military base teaching)
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
Survivor benefits

- If you die during active service, survivor benefits (based on the amount of service credit) may be payable to your spouse and/or minor children.

- If you are not vested, no survivor benefits are payable; however, your accumulated member contributions will be paid in a lump sum to your named beneficiary or succession.
Deferred retirement

• Members who leave TRSL-eligible job positions can apply for and draw a lifetime retirement benefit if they leave their contributions in the system and meet retirement eligibility requirements:
  » At least 5 years of service credit
  » Age 60 or 62 (determined by when member first joined state retirement system)
Disability retirement

• You are no longer able to perform current job duties.
• You must submit required forms, medical records, and treatment history documents to TRSL.
• State Medical Disability Board certifies disability.
• Service earned while on workers’ compensation may be used (depends on hire date).
• A member may need 10 years of service credit to be eligible, excluding years on workers’ compensation (depends on hire date).
• Annual certifications may be required.
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.
Most payments or benefits received from TRSL are considered community property:

» Regular retirement benefits
» Refunds or contributions
» DROP or ILSB withdrawals
» Death benefits

• The court system ultimately determines which funds or payments are considered community property.

• TRSL will not pay benefits to an ex-spouse without court documentation.
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.
• 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.
Member Access is a secure website where you have all the tools you need to plan for retirement:

- View service credit, contributions and beneficiary designations
- Create a benefit estimate
- Update your name or address
- Apply for retirement

Create your account today!
Welcome to TRSL's Member Access!

Technical Assistance: If you need assistance registering or logging into Member Access, please contact our HelpDesk at Desk at (225) 925-6460 or helpdesk@trsl.org.

New Users

New Users You will need to be able to verify some information about yourself and have:

- Valid personal email address and
- Social Security number

Only TRSL members and retirees, or individuals legally authorized to act on their behalf, are permitted to establish online access to member and retiree personal accounts.

All other persons, including TRSL benefit recipients, such as beneficiaries, survivors, or ex-spouses receiving benefits, do not have authorization to establish online access in the name of a TRSL member or retiree.

TRSL benefit recipients can seek authorization to establish online access to their own personal TRSL accounts.

Existing Users

Log In

User ID:
Password:
log in

Forgot password?
Forgot User ID?
Your access page

Member Access

Member Access provides a variety of information and services regarding your retirement account as described below. Just click on the menu bar above when you have decided where you want to go.

Active Members

My Account
- Employment Summary: view personal information currently on file
- Account History: view past earnings, contributions, and service credit
- Current Year Earnings & Contributions
- Sick Leave
- Member Account Statement

My Self Service
- Change your name
- Change your mailing address
- Change your email address

My Retirement
- Estimate your retirement benefit
- Apply for retirement

Retirees & Beneficiaries

My Account
- Benefit Summary: view personal information currently on file
- Account History: view past earnings, contributions, and service credit
- Benefit Payment History: view your benefit payments and deductions
- DROP/ILSB Account Summary/History (only available to those who participated in DROP)
- DROP/ILSB Payment History (only available to those who participated in DROP)
- DROP/ILSB Account Statement (only available to those who participated in DROP)
- Sick Leave
- Print Form 1099-R

My Self Service
- Change your email address
- Change your federal income tax withholding
Summer workshops: We’re ready! Are you?

We’ve scheduled our “Planning for Your Retirement” workshops for the summer. And we’ll be coming to a city near you.

If you are within five years of retirement or DROP eligibility, then this workshop is perfect for you! We’ll discuss the benefits of your TRSL membership, go over the retirement process, and answer all your retirement questions, such as:

- How is my benefit calculated?
- Can I name both of my children as beneficiaries?
- Should I go into DROP?
- What happens to my sick leave?
- Will I get Social Security?

Remember… it’s never too early to start your retirement planning. Check out our workshop schedule and register. We look forward to seeing you there!

Find it online…

- Forms
- Brochures
- Newsletters
- & more!

www.TRSL.org
TRSL/LASERS letter to the editor
This letter to the editor was published in The Advocate on June 13, 2019. The close of the 2019 legislative session and the departure of many respected legislators is a fitting time to reflect on... 

TRSL Board announces winner in colleges/universities run-off election
Baton Rouge — Thomas F. Stafford, Ph.D., of West Monroe, has been elected to serve on the TRSL Board of Trustees as the representative for active members employed in a college or university. Res...

TRSL adds $1.1 billion in assets, DROP interest announced
UPDATE: At its November meeting, the TRSL Board of Trustees adopted revisions to the projected employer contribution rates for FY 2019-2020 due to changes in investment earnings assumptions. The revis...

TRSL Board makes interim appointment, receives election results
Baton Rouge - At its October meeting, the TRSL Board of Trustees made an interim appointment to the District 1 seat and received voting results for the colleges and universities election. DISTRICT ...

Comprehensive Employer Training
A great overview of TRSL reporting policies and procedures for employers

Employer Webinar
Convenient 30-minute online training for TRSL employers

Individual Phone Counseling
Phone counseling for members within 2 years of retirement or DROP eligibility. Call today to schedule yours!

Member Webinars
Convenient 30-minute online retirement workshops for TRSL members

Employer Webinar - Eligibility & Enrollments
10 a.m., Wed., September 4, 2019

Employer Webinar - Return to Work (RTW)
10 a.m., Wed., September 18, 2019

Member Webinar - Early Career
4 p.m., Thu., September 19, 2019
Forms

For your convenience, you can download and complete all TRSL forms online. After that, just print and send it to us. If you are unable to access a form, please email us at web.master@trsl.org and we'll be happy to send you one. To order forms by phone, please call 225-922-2822 or 1-877-ASK-TRSL (1-877-275-8775), ext. 2822.

Forms by Numerical Order
Forms by Subject

Forms are posted on this website as PDF files. If you do not have Acrobat Reader installed on your computer to print or view PDF documents, a free download of the program is available at the Adobe website.

NOTE: Be sure to print the documents with Acrobat Reader’s print button; the browser’s print function may not work properly with these documents.
Publications

TRSL’s publications contain important information about the retirement system and your membership. All of our brochures are available online. We encourage you to become familiar with the information about your retirement benefits and stay informed about issues impacting your retirement system. Get it all here.

Brochures
Newsletters
Reports

Many TRSL publications are posted on this website as PDF files. If you do not have Acrobat Reader installed on your computer to print or view PDF documents, a free download of the program is available at the Adobe website.

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Workshops Overview

Whether you’re an actively working member, a retiree, or a reporting employer, TRSL has workshops, webinars, and training throughout the year designed specifically for you. Here is an overview of each workshop and webinar offered. If you have any questions regarding an event, contact us at retiree.edu@trl.org.

You can view all scheduled workshops and webinars by clicking “Search events” below.

Search events

Or click a workshop title to view a list of upcoming sessions for that topic:

Members

DROP & Beyond
Designed for members who have already joined DROP, or who continue to work after their DROP participation is over.

Individual Counseling
30-minute phone counseling sessions for members within two years of retirement or DROP eligibility.

Member Webinars
Online topic-specific sessions regarding TRSL retirement and benefits.
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.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VIEW PDF</th>
<th>WATCH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018 Legislative Updates</td>
<td>🔗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Career Webinar Series - Part 1</td>
<td>🔗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Career Webinar Series - Part 2</td>
<td>🔗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’ve Completed DROP… What’s Next?</td>
<td>🔗</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Get in the driver’s seat!

- Check out our “Roadmap to Retirement” series of infographics at www.TRSL.org.
- Take a spin & learn some useful information about basic financial matters, retirement planning, and your TRSL membership.
Roadmap to Retirement

**CAREER checkpoints**

**EARLY career** (0-10 years of TRSL service credit)

**BASICS YOU SHOULD KNOW:**

**About TRSL**
TRSL is the largest retirement system in the state. It’s a defined benefit plan which means your retirement is funded by contributions made by you & your employer, plus investment earnings. TRSL members do not participate in Social Security.

**Purchases & transfers**
You can purchase or transfer certain types of eligible service to enhance your retirement. If possible, do this early; it gets more expensive the later you wait.

**Being vested**
With 5 years of service credit in TRSL, you are vested & may be eligible for certain benefits, such as survivor benefits, disability retirement, & deferred retirement.

**Checkpoint TO-DO**
- Visit www.TRSL.org
- Sign up for Member Access
- Follow us on social media

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**MID-career** (10-20 years of TRSL service credit)

**BENEFITS TO UNDERSTAND:**

**Considering DROP?**
The Deferred Retirement Option Plan is an optional plan where you can build a retirement nest egg (separate from your monthly TRSL retirement benefit) while you continue to work.

**Eligibility to retire**
TRSL members must meet certain age & service credit requirements to retire or enter DROP. These criteria are based upon when you first became a member & the plan you are in - Regular Plan, Plan A, or Plan B.

**Sick leave**
At retirement, your eligible unused sick leave can be converted to service credit to increase your retirement benefit.

**Checkpoint TO-DO**
- Learn about your benefits
- Check beneficiary on file
- Think about your future

---

**READY to retire** (within 5 years of retirement)

**PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS:**

**Retirement options**
When you retire or enter DROP, you’ll select one of eight options which determine how much you & your beneficiary (if you choose) will receive each month.

**Tax info**
All payments from TRSL are subject to applicable IRS rules & regulations. TRSL retirement benefits are exempt from Louisiana state taxes.

**Back to work?**
Return-to-work laws have changed significantly in recent years. It’s very important to understand how they may affect you if you return to work after retirement.

**Checkpoint TO-DO**
- Attend a TRSL workshop
- Get a benefit estimate
- Consult Social Security (if needed)
Things to do now...

- Register for Member Access.
- Submit copies of important documents:
  - Social security cards (member and beneficiary/ies)
  - Birth certificates (member and beneficiary)
  - Legal documents (including divorce decrees, judgment of separation, and/or community property settlements)
- Update address.
- Update beneficiary/ies.
Questions?
We are here for you!

Local phone: (225) 925-6446

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

www.TRSL.org ● web.master@trsl.org

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Follow us on Twitter!