

What is my Tier?



If you met the 2005 eligibility requirements to be grandfathered and your current TRS membership began prior to Sept. 1, 2007, and you had at least five years of service credit in TRS as of Aug. 31, 2014, and you maintain your membership until retirement, your membership falls under Tier 1. To retain your placement in Tier 1 you cannot terminate your membership, withdraw your accumulated contributions and resume membership in TRS after Aug. 31, 2014. This section describes the age and service credit requirements that a Tier 1 member must meet to be eligible for normal-age or early-age service retirement, as well as for the Partial Lump Sum Option (PLSO). This section also describes the standard annuity calculation for a Tier 1 member, using the final average salary that applies to Tier 1. Finally, it provides an overview of the early-age reductions to the standard annuity that may apply to a Tier 1 member, depending on age and years of service credit at retirement.

Normal-Age Retirement Eligibility

To be eligible for normal-age service retirement, you must meet one of the following conditions:

- you are age 65 with at least five years of service credit, or
- you meet the Rule of 80 (your age and years of service credit total at least 80) and you have at least five years of service credit.

Normal-Age Retirement Annuity

As a Tier 1 member, you will have your monthly annuity calculated using the average of your highest three annual salaries (based on creditable compensation) and according to the standard annuity benefit formula in effect when you retire.

Early-Age Retirement Eligibility

If you do not meet the normal-age service retirement requirements, then to be eligible for early-age service retirement, you must meet one of the following conditions:

- you are at least age 55 with five or more years of service credit but do not meet the Rule of 80, or
- you have 30 or more years of service credit but do not meet the Rule of 80.

If you apply for early-age service retirement, your annuity will be calculated according to the standard annuity benefit formula in effect when you retire, but the annuity amount will be actuarially reduced for early age to reflect that you will receive retirement benefits earlier than if you waited to reach normal-age service retirement eligibility.

Early-Age Reductions

Actuarial tables detailing the percentage reduction applied to your annuity may be found on the TRS website (www.trs.texas.gov) within TRS Rule 29.12. The tables or the TRS online calculator through *MyTRS* can show you the exact amount of the reduction, based on your age and years of service credit. To determine the range of early-age retirement reductions, please see the criteria below.

If you are between ages 55 and 64 and have between five and 19 years of service credit, but do not meet the Rule of 80:

- The early-age reduction to your standard annuity may be as great as 53 percent, depending on your age at retirement.

If you are between ages 55 and 59 and have between 20 and 24 years of service credit, but do not meet the Rule of 80:

- The early-age reduction to your standard annuity may be as great as 10 percent, depending on your age at retirement.

If you have at least 30 years of service credit but do not meet the Rule of 80:

- Your standard annuity will be reduced by 2 percent for every year your age is below the age of 50.

Standard Annuity Calculation

Average Salary = Average of Three Highest Annual Salaries

Total Percent = Total Years of Service Credit x 2.3%

Annual Annuity = Total Percent x Average Salary

Monthly Annuity = Annual Annuity ÷ 12

Retirement annuity calculators are available on the TRS website through MyTRS to assist you.

PLSO Eligibility Requirements

As a Tier 1 member, at retirement you are eligible to select a Partial Lump Sum Option (PLSO) if:

- you are eligible to receive an unreduced service retirement annuity,
- you are not participating in DROP, and
- you are not retiring under the Proportionate Retirement Program.

If you did not meet the 2005 eligibility requirements to be grandfathered but your current TRS membership began prior to Sept. 1, 2007, and you had at least five years of service credit in TRS as of Aug. 31, 2014, and you maintain your membership until retirement, your membership falls under Tier 2. To retain your placement in Tier 2 you cannot terminate your membership, withdraw your accumulated contributions and resume membership in TRS after Aug. 31, 2014. This section describes the age and service credit requirements that a Tier 2 member must meet to be eligible for normal-age or early-age service retirement, as well as for the Partial Lump Sum Option (PLSO). It also describes the standard annuity calculation for a Tier 2 member, using the final average salary that applies to Tier 2. Finally, it provides an overview of the early-age reductions to the standard annuity that may apply to a Tier 2 member, depending on age and years of service credit at retirement.

Normal-Age Retirement Eligibility

To be eligible for normal-age service retirement, you must meet one of the following conditions:

- you are age 65 with at least five years of service credit, or
- you meet the Rule of 80 (your age and years of service credit total at least 80) and you have at least five years of service credit.

Normal-Age Retirement Annuity

As a Tier 2 member, you will have your monthly annuity calculated using the average of your highest five annual salaries (based on creditable compensation) and according to the standard annuity benefit formula in effect when you retire.

Early-Age Retirement Eligibility

If you do not meet the normal-age service retirement requirements, then to be eligible for an early-age service retirement, you must meet one of the following conditions:

- you are at least age 55 with five or more years of service credit but do not meet the Rule of 80, or
- you have 30 or more years of service credit but do not meet the Rule of 80.

If you apply for early-age service retirement, your annuity will be calculated according to the standard annuity benefit formula in effect when you retire, but the annuity amount will be actuarially reduced for early age to reflect that you will receive retirement benefits earlier than if you waited to reach normal-age service retirement eligibility.

Early-Age Reductions

Actuarial tables detailing the percentage reduction applied to your annuity may be found on the TRS website (www.trs.texas.gov) within TRS Rule 29.11. The tables or the TRS online calculator through *MyTRS* can show you the exact amount of the reduction, based on your age and years of service credit. To determine the range of early-age service retirement reductions, please see the criteria below.

If you are between ages 55 and 64, have at least five years of service credit, but do not meet the Rule of 80:

- The early-age reduction to your standard annuity will be as great as 53 percent, depending on your age at retirement.

If you have at least 30 years of service credit but do not meet the Rule of 80:

- Your standard annuity will be reduced by 2 percent for every year your age is below the age of 50.

Standard Annuity Calculation

Average Salary = Average of Five Highest Annual Salaries

Total Percent = Total Years of Service Credit x 2.3%

Annual Annuity = Total Percent x Average Salary

Monthly Annuity = Annual Annuity ÷ 12

Retirement annuity calculators are available on the TRS website through MyTRS to assist you.

PLSO Eligibility Requirements

As a Tier 2 member, at retirement you are eligible to select a Partial Lump Sum Option (PLSO) if:

- you are eligible for service retirement,
- your age and years of service credit total 90,
- you are not participating in DROP, and
- you are not retiring under the Proportionate Retirement Program.

If you did not meet the 2005 eligibility requirements to be grandfathered and your current TRS membership began on or after Sept. 1, 2007 but prior to Sept. 1, 2014, and you had at least five years of service credit in TRS as of Aug. 31, 2014, and you maintain your membership in TRS until retirement, your membership falls under Tier 3. To retain your placement in Tier 3 you cannot terminate your membership, withdraw your accumulated contributions and resume membership in TRS after Aug. 31, 2014. This section describes the age and service credit requirements that a Tier 3 member must meet to be eligible for normal-age or early-age service retirement, as well as for the Partial Lump Sum Option (PLSO). It also describes the standard annuity calculation for a Tier 3 member, using the final average salary that applies to Tier 3. Finally, it provides an overview of the early-age service retirement reductions to the standard annuity that may apply to a Tier 3 member, depending on age and years of service credit at retirement.

Normal-Age Retirement Eligibility

To be eligible for normal-age service retirement, you must meet one of the following conditions:

- you are age 65 with at least five years of service credit, or
- you are at least age 60, you meet the Rule of 80 (your age and years of service credit total at least 80), and you have at least five years of service credit.

Normal-Age Retirement Annuity

As a Tier 3 member, you will have your monthly annuity calculated using the average of your highest five annual salaries (based on creditable compensation) and according to the standard annuity benefit formula in effect when you retire.

Early-Age Retirement Eligibility

If you do not meet the normal-age service retirement requirements, then to be eligible for early-age service retirement, you must meet one of the following conditions:

- you are at least age 55 with five or more years of service credit but do not meet the Rule of 80,
- you have at least 30 years of service credit, do not meet the Rule of 80, and are less than age 60, or
- you meet the Rule of 80 with at least five years of service credit but you are less than age 60.

If you apply for early-age service retirement, your annuity will be calculated according to the standard annuity benefit formula in effect when you retire, but the annuity amount will be actuarially reduced for early age to reflect that you will receive retirement benefits earlier than if you waited to reach normal-age service retirement eligibility.

Early-Age Reductions

Actuarial tables detailing the percentage reduction applied to your annuity may be found on the TRS website (www.trs.texas.gov) within TRS Rule 29.11. The tables or the TRS online calculators through *MyTRS* can show you the exact amount of the reduction, based on your age and years of service credit. To determine the range of early-age service retirement reductions, please see the criteria below.

If you are between ages 55 and 64, have at least five years of service credit but do not meet the Rule of 80:

- The early-age reduction to your standard annuity may be as great as 53 percent depending on your age at retirement.

If you have at least 30 years of service credit, do not meet the Rule of 80, and are less than age 60:

- Your standard annuity will be reduced by 5 percent for every year your age is below the age of 60.

If you meet the Rule of 80 with at least five years of service credit but are less than age 60:

- Your standard annuity will be reduced by 5 percent for every year your age is below the age of 60.

Standard Annuity Calculation

Average Salary = Average of Five Highest Annual Salaries

Total Percent = Total Years of Service Credit x 2.3%

Annual Annuity = Total Percent x Average Salary

Monthly Annuity = Annual Annuity ÷ 12

Retirement annuity calculators are available on the TRS website through MyTRS to assist you.

PLSO Eligibility Requirements

As a Tier 3 member, at retirement you are eligible to select a Partial Lump Sum Option (PLSO) if:

- you are eligible for service retirement,
- your age and years of service credit total 90,
- you are not participating in DROP, and
- you are not retiring under the Proportionate Retirement Program.

If you met the 2005 eligibility requirements to be grandfathered but your current TRS membership began on or after Sept. 1, 2007 but prior to Sept. 1, 2014, and you had at least five years of service credit in TRS as of Aug. 31, 2014, and you maintain your membership in TRS until retirement, your membership falls under Tier 4. To retain your placement in Tier 4 you cannot terminate your membership, withdraw your accumulated contributions, and resume membership in TRS after Aug. 31, 2014. This section describes the age and service credit requirements that a Tier 4 member must meet to be eligible for normal-age or early-age service retirement, as well as for the Partial Lump Sum Option (PLSO). It also describes the standard annuity calculation for a Tier 4 member, using the final average salary that applies to Tier 4. Finally, it provides an overview of the early-age service retirement reductions to the standard annuity that may apply to a Tier 4 member, depending on age and years of service credit at retirement.

Normal-Age Retirement Eligibility

To be eligible for normal-age service retirement, you must meet one of the following conditions:

- you are age 65 with at least five years of service credit, or
- you are at least age 60, you meet the Rule of 80 (your age and years of service credit total at least 80), and you have at least five years of service credit.

Normal-Age Retirement Annuity

As a Tier 4 member, you will have your monthly annuity calculated using the average of your highest three annual salaries (based on creditable compensation) and according to the standard annuity benefit formula in effect when you retire.

Early-Age Retirement Eligibility

If you do not meet the normal-age service retirement requirements, then to be eligible for early-age service retirement, you must meet one of the following conditions:

- you are at least age 55 with five or more years of service credit but do not meet the Rule of 80,
- you have at least 30 years of service credit, do not meet the Rule of 80, and are less than age 60,
or
- you are less than age 60 but you meet the Rule of 80 with at least five years of service credit.

If you apply for early-age service retirement your annuity will be calculated according to the standard annuity benefit formula in effect when you retire, but the annuity amount will be actuarially reduced for early age to reflect that you will receive retirement benefits earlier than if you waited to reach normal-age service retirement eligibility.

Early-Age Reductions

Actuarial tables detailing the percentage reduction applied to your annuity may be found on the TRS website (www.trs.texas.gov) in TRS Rule 29.12. The tables or the TRS online calculator through *MyTRS* can show you the exact amount of the reduction, based on your age and years of service credit. To determine the range of early-age service retirement reductions, please see the criteria below.

If you are between ages 55 and 64, have between five and 19 years of service credit, but do not meet the Rule of 80:

- The early-age reduction to your standard annuity may be as great as 53 percent depending on your age at retirement.

If you are between ages 55 and 59 and have between 20 and 24 years of service credit, but do not meet the Rule of 80:

- The early-age reduction to your standard annuity may be as great as 10 percent, depending on your age at retirement.

If you have at least 30 years of service credit, do not meet the Rule of 80, and are less than age 60:

- Your standard annuity will be reduced by 5 percent for every year your age is below the age of 60.

If you are less than age 55 but you meet the Rule of 80 with at least five years of service credit:

- Your standard annuity will be reduced 5 percent for every year your age is below the age of 60.

If you are at least age 55 but less than age 60, have at least 20 years of service credit, and meet the rule of 80:

- Your standard annuity is not reduced based on actuarial tables, but you are still considered an early-age retiree.

Standard Annuity Calculation

Average Salary = Average of Three Highest Annual Salaries

Total Percent = Total Years of Service Credit x 2.3%

Annual Annuity = Total Percent x Average Salary

Monthly Annuity = Annual Annuity ÷ 12

Retirement annuity calculators are available on the TRS website through MyTRS to assist you.

PLSO Eligibility Requirements

As a Tier 4 member, at retirement you are eligible to select a Partial Lump Sum Option (PLSO) if:

- you are eligible to receive an unreduced service retirement annuity,
- you are not participating in DROP, and
- you are not retiring under the Proportionate Retirement Program.

If you did not meet the 2005 eligibility requirements to be grandfathered and any of the following applies: 1) you did not have at least five years of service credit on Aug. 31, 2014, 2) your current membership in TRS began on or after Sept. 1, 2014, or 3) you had at least five years of service credit on Aug. 31, 2014, but you terminated your membership in TRS by withdrawing your accumulated contributions and resumed membership in TRS after Aug. 31, 2014, your membership falls under Tier 5. This section describes the age and service credit requirements that a Tier 5 member must meet to be eligible for normal-age or early-age service retirement, as well as for the Partial Lump Sum Option (PLSO). It also describes the standard annuity calculation for a Tier 5 member, using the final average salary that applies to Tier 5. Finally, it provides an overview of the early-age service retirement reductions to the standard annuity that may apply to a Tier 5 member, depending on age and years of service credit at retirement.

Normal-Age Retirement Eligibility

To be eligible for normal-age service retirement, you must meet one of the following conditions:

- you are age 65 with at least five years of service credit, or
- you are at least age 62, you meet the Rule of 80 (your age and years of service credit total at least 80), and you have at least five years of service credit.

Normal-Age Retirement Annuity

As a Tier 5 member, you will have your monthly annuity calculated using the average of your highest five annual salaries (based on creditable compensation) and according to the standard annuity benefit formula in effect when you retire.

Early-Age Retirement Eligibility

If you do not meet the normal-age service retirement requirements, then to be eligible for early-age service retirement, you must meet one of the following conditions:

- you are at least age 55 with five or more years of service credit but do not meet the Rule of 80,
- you have at least 30 years of service credit, do not meet the Rule of 80, and are less than age 62, or
- you meet the Rule of 80 (your age and years of service credit total at least 80) with at least five years of service credit but you are less than age 62.

If you apply for early-age service retirement, your annuity will be calculated according to the standard annuity benefit formula in effect when you retire, but the annuity amount will be actuarially reduced for early age to reflect that you will receive retirement benefits earlier than if you waited to reach normal-age service retirement eligibility.

Early-Age Reductions

Actuarial tables detailing the percentage reduction applied to your annuity may be found on the TRS website (www.trs.texas.gov) in TRS Rule 29.11. The tables or the TRS online calculator through *MyTRS* can show you the exact amount of the reduction, based on your age and years of service credit. To determine the range of early-age service retirement reductions, please see the criteria below.

If you are between ages 55 and 64, have at least five years of service credit, but do not meet the Rule of 80:

- The early-age reduction to your standard annuity may be as great as 53 percent depending on your age at retirement.

If you have at least 30 years of service credit, do not meet the Rule of 80 and are less than age 62:

- Your standard annuity will be reduced by 5 percent for every year your age is below the age of 62.

If you meet the Rule of 80 with at least five years of service credit but are less than age 62:

- Your standard annuity will be reduced by 5 percent for every year your age is below the age of 62.

Standard Annuity Calculation

Average Salary = Average of Five Highest Annual Salaries

Total Percent = Total Years of Service Credit x 2.3%

Annual Annuity = Total Percent x Average Salary

Monthly Annuity = Annual Annuity ÷ 12

Retirement annuity calculators are available on the TRS website through MyTRS to assist you.

PLSO Eligibility Requirements

As a Tier 5 member, you are eligible to select a Partial Lump Sum Option (PLSO) if:

- you are eligible for service retirement,
- your age and years of service credit total 90,
- you are not participating in DROP, and
- you are not retiring under the Proportionate Retirement Program.

If you met the 2005 eligibility requirements to be grandfathered and any of the following applies: 1) you did not have at least five years of service credit on Aug. 31, 2014, 2) your current membership in TRS began on or after Sept. 1, 2014, or 3) you had at least five years of service credit on Aug. 31, 2014, but you terminated your membership in TRS by withdrawing your accumulated contributions and resumed membership in TRS after Aug. 31, 2014, your membership falls under Tier 6. This section describes the age and service credit requirements that a Tier 6 member must meet to be eligible for normal-age or early-age service retirement, as well as for the Partial Lump Sum Option (PLSO). It also describes the standard annuity calculation for a Tier 6 member, using the final average salary that applies to Tier 6. Finally, it provides an overview of the early-age service retirement reductions to the standard annuity that may apply to a Tier 6 member, depending on age and years of service credit at retirement.

Normal-Age Retirement Eligibility

To be eligible for normal-age service retirement, you must meet one of the following conditions:

- you are age 65 with at least five years of service credit, or
- you are at least age 62, you meet the Rule of 80 (your age and years of service credit total at least 80), and you have at least five years of service credit.

Normal-Age Retirement Annuity

As a Tier 6 member, you will have your monthly annuity calculated using the average of your highest three annual salaries (based on creditable compensation) and according to the standard annuity benefit formula in effect when you retire.

Early-Age Retirement Eligibility

If you do not meet the normal-age service retirement requirements, then to be eligible for early-age service retirement, you must meet one of the following conditions:

- you are at least age 55 with five or more years of service credit but do not meet the Rule of 80,
- you have at least 30 years of service credit, do not meet the Rule of 80 and are less than age 62, or
- you are less than age 62 but you meet Rule of 80 with at least five years of service credit.

If you apply for early-age service retirement your annuity will be calculated according to the standard annuity benefit formula in effect when you retire, but the annuity amount will be actuarially reduced for early age to reflect that you will receive retirement benefits earlier than if you waited to reach normal-age service retirement eligibility.

Early-Age Reductions

Actuarial tables detailing the percentage reduction applied to your annuity may be found on the TRS website (www.trs.texas.gov) in TRS Rule 29.12. The tables or the TRS online calculator through *MyTRS* can show you the exact amount of the reduction, based on your age and years of service credit. To determine the range of early-age service retirement reductions, please see the criteria below.

If you are between ages 55 and 64, have between five and 19 years of service credit, but do not meet the Rule of 80:

- The early-age reduction to your standard annuity may be as great as 53 percent depending on your age at retirement.

If you are between ages 55 and 59 and have between 20 and 24 years of service credit, but do not meet the Rule of 80:

- The early-age reduction to your standard annuity may be as great as 10 percent, depending on your age at retirement.

If you have at least 30 years of service credit, do not meet the Rule of 80, and are less than age 62:

- Your standard annuity will be reduced by 5 percent for every year your age is below the age of 62.

If you are less than age 55 but you meet the Rule of 80:

- Your standard annuity will be reduced by 5 percent for every year your age is below the age of 62.

If you are age 61, you meet the Rule of 80, and you have 19 years of service credit:

- Your standard annuity will be reduced by 5 percent.

If you are at least age 55 but less than age 62, have at least 20 years of service credit, and meet the rule of 80:

- Your standard annuity is not reduced based on actuarial tables, but you are still considered an early-age retiree.

Standard Annuity Calculation

Average Salary = Average of Three Highest Annual Salaries

Total Percent = Total Years of Service Credit x 2.3%

Annual Annuity = Total Percent x Average Salary

Monthly Annuity = Annual Annuity ÷ 12

Retirement annuity calculators are available on the TRS website through MyTRS to assist you.

PLSO Eligibility Requirements

As a Tier 6 member, at retirement you are eligible to select a Partial Lump Sum Option (PLSO) if:

- you are eligible to receive an unreduced service retirement annuity,
- you are not participating in DROP, and
- you are not retiring under the Proportionate Retirement Program.