

Introduction to TRS



Presentation Agenda



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TRS Membership

2

TRS Outreach

3

Retirement Income Planning

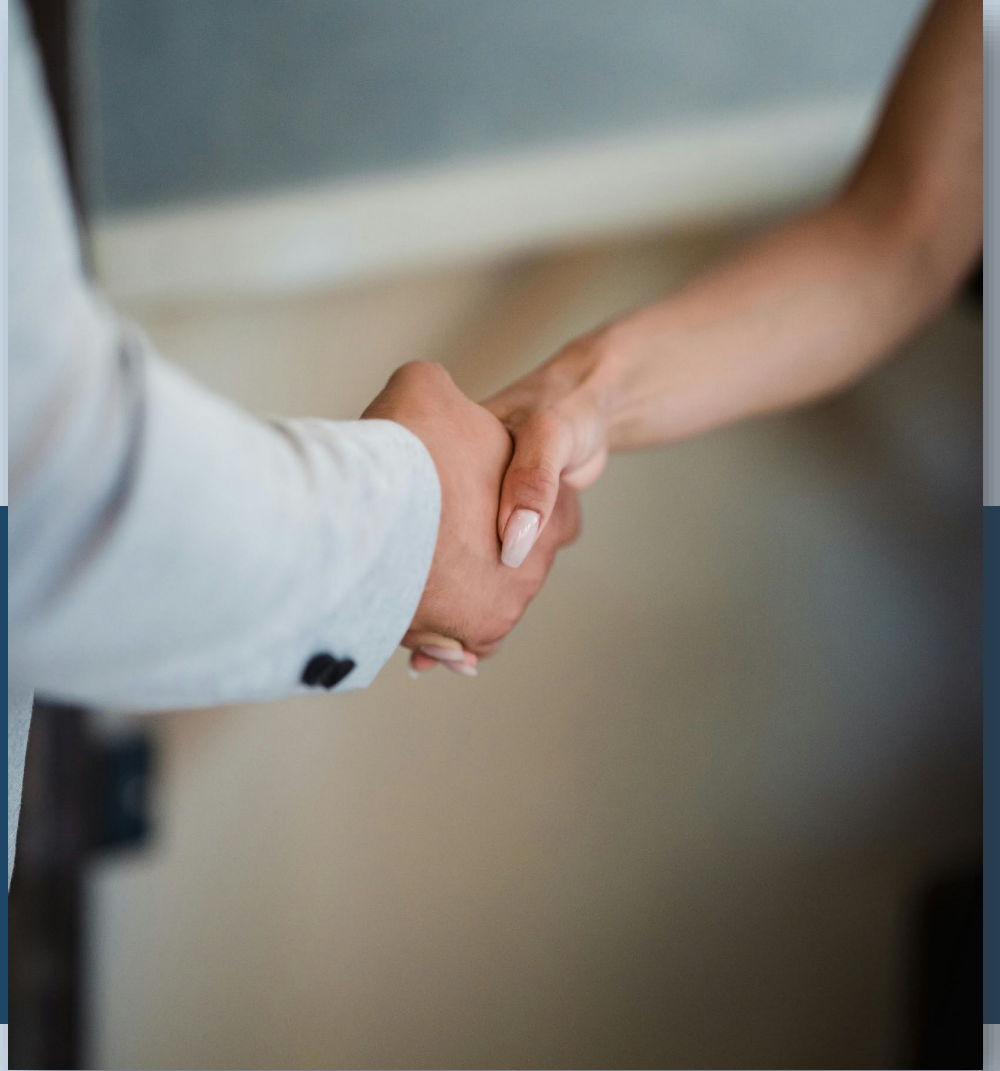
4

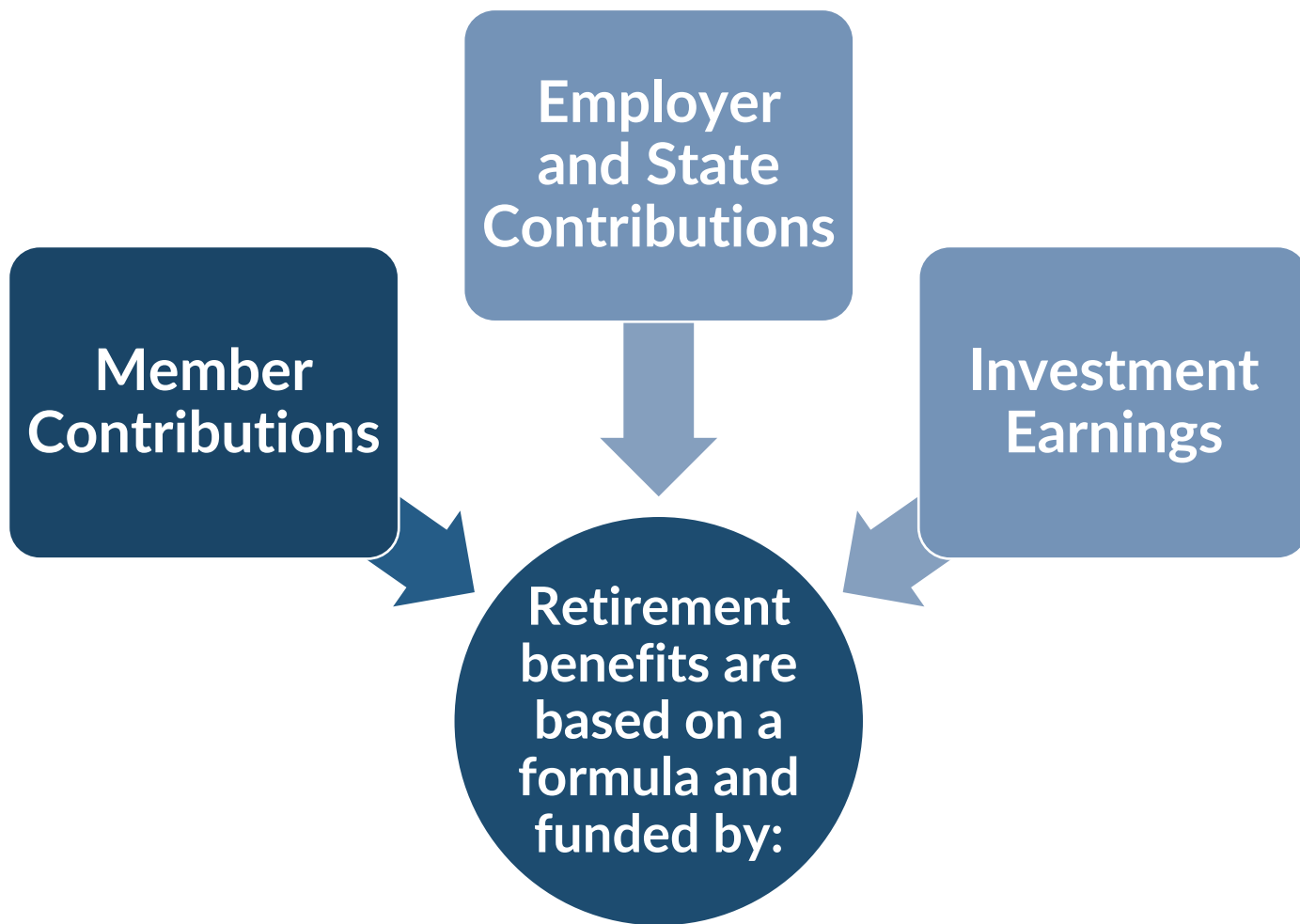
Resources

5

Your Responsibilities as a Member

TRS Membership





Scan here for
more information



TRS is a 401(a) Defined Benefit Plan

- ✓ Pension specifically created for you
- ✓ Among the largest pension funds in the United States
- ✓ Experienced team to manage the fund
- ✓ Funded by member, employer and state contributions as well as investment earnings



Membership

- Begins on first day of employment
- Required if eligible
- TRS mails a *Welcome to Membership* letter



Contributions

- Member Contributions
 - 8.25% monthly member contribution
 - 0.65% TRS-Care contribution
- Employer/State Contributions



Annual Statements

- Annual statements are produced each fall
- 2% annual interest
- Includes salaries, service credit, retirement estimate, and account balance.

Employment with a single employer expected to last 4 ½ months or more;

for one-half or more of the full-time workload; and

with compensation comparable to the rate of compensation for other persons employed in similar positions.

Active member death benefits

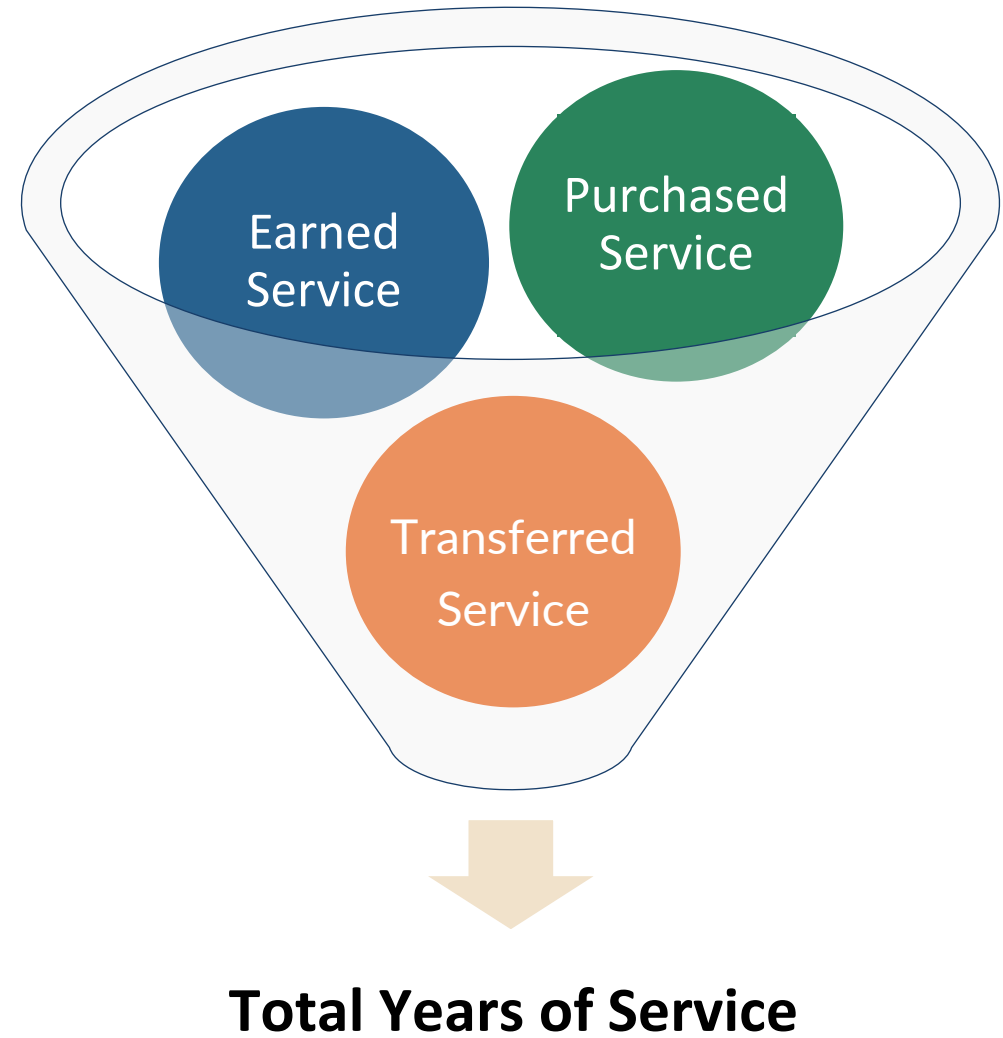
- Your coverage became effective on your first day of TRS-covered employment.
- Beneficiaries may be eligible to select from five different payment plans.

Please notify TRS of an active member death by calling toll free at 1-800-223-8778. TRS will need the date of death and as well as a copy of the death certificate when it is available. TRS will provide additional information to the beneficiary about the process to claim any death benefits payable.

Service Credit



TRS Service Credit





You must work or receive paid leave from a TRS-eligible position at least 90 days during the school year beginning September 1st and ending August 31st.

In the last year of employment before retirement, you may earn a year of service credit by working and/or receiving paid leave for each day of the full fall semester, even if that semester is less than 90 days before you retire.

Withdrawn Service	Developmental Leave*
Military Service	USERRA Service
Out-of-State Service*	State Sick and/or Personal Leave*
Unreported Service and/or Compensation*	Work Experience (Career or Tech Teacher)*
Substitute Service*	Membership Waiting Period*

* Actuarial cost

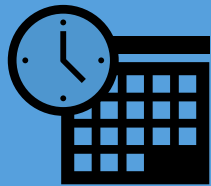
Payment Options

Lump Sum

Installments

Rollover

Five Years of Service Credit

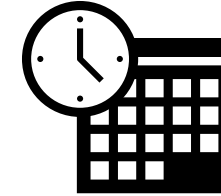


Five Years of
Service Credit

Eligible to receive a lifetime annuity based on retirement eligibility

TRS will continue to pay interest on your account

Beneficiaries may also be eligible to receive lifetime annuity

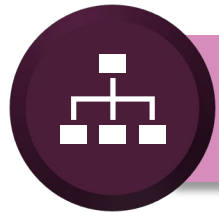


< Five Service Credit Years

What if I have
fewer than five
years of service
credit?



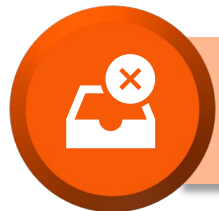
Years of service reset to zero



Loss of membership tier



Possible tax penalties



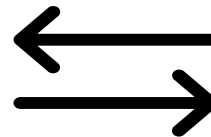
No longer vested





To transfer ERS service to TRS

- Must have at least 3 years of active TRS service.



To transfer TRS service to ERS

- Must have at least 36 months of active ERS service.

Important Note: ERS Group 4 members (cash balance group) are not eligible to transfer ERS service to TRS or vice versa. This is also true for ERS Group 4 members that have pre-September 1, 2022 ERS service that they withdrew prior to September 1, 2022

May be eligible to:

- Combine service to satisfy TRS retirement eligibility
- Reinstate withdrawn service credit

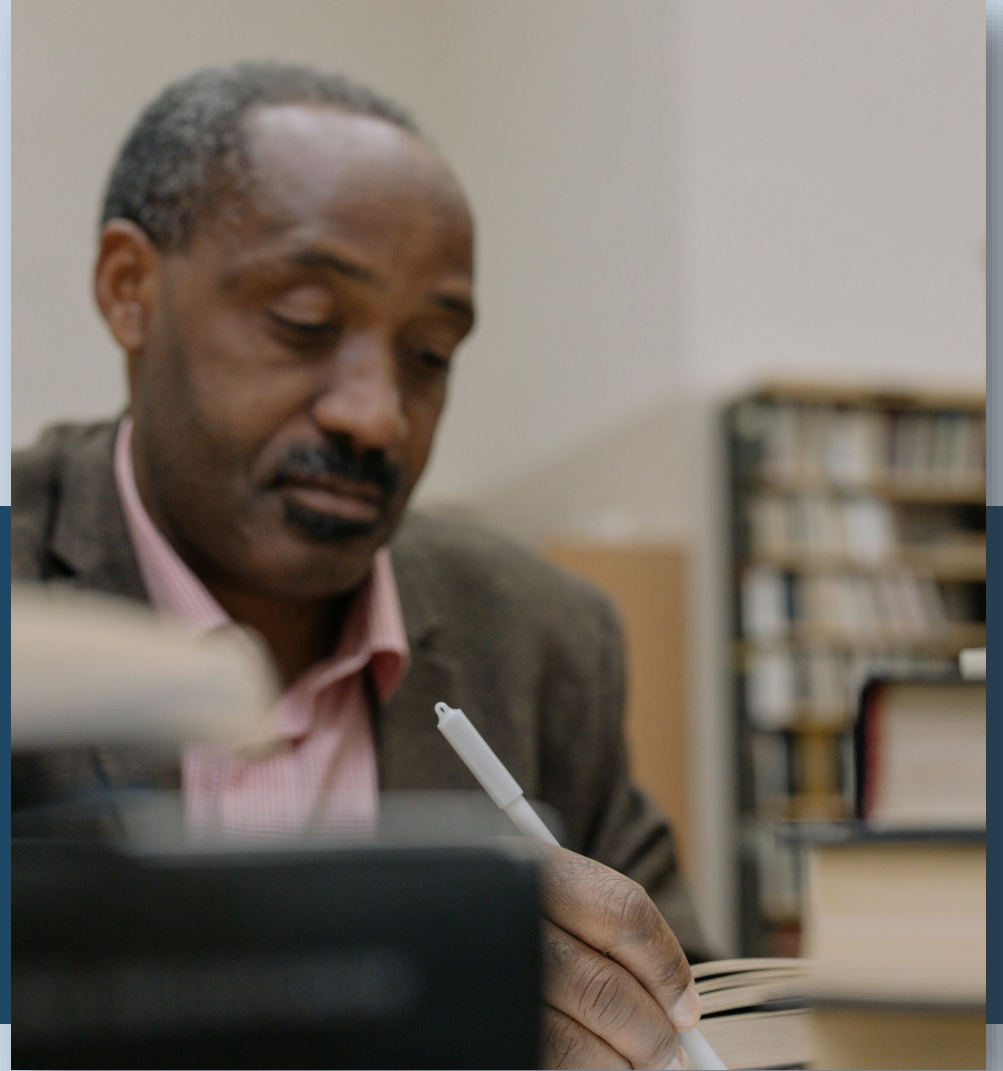
May Not Use Credit To:

- Calculate monthly TRS retirement benefit amount
- Meet eligibility for TRS-Care or PLSO

Participating Systems:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Employees Retirement System of Texas | • Judicial Retirement System of Texas |
| • Texas Municipal Retirement System | • Texas County and District Retirement System |
| • City of Austin Employees Retirement System | • City of Austin Police Retirement System |
| • El Paso City Employees' Pension Fund | • El Paso Firemen and Policemen's Pension Fund |

Grandfathering



If you were a TRS member and met at least one of the following criteria before **Sept. 1, 2005**, you are a grandfathered member.



You were at least 50 years old; or



your age and years of service totaled 70; or



you had at least 25 years of service.

Grandfathered

- Average of 3 Highest Annual Salaries
- Eligible for PLSO at Age 65 or when age and years of service = 80
- Early Age Retirement Reductions
 - As great as 10% with > than 20 years
 - As great as 53% with < than 20 years

Non-Grandfathered

- Average of 5 Highest Annual Salaries
- Eligible for PLSO when age and years of service = 90
- Early Age Retirement Reductions
 - As great as 53%

Membership Tiers



What is My Tier?



1 — 2

Tier 1 (GF)

Tier 2

- Current membership began prior to Sept. 1, 2007; and
- Had at least five years of service on Aug. 31, 2014

3 — 4

Tier 3

Tier 4 (GF)

- Current membership began between Sept. 1, 2007, and Aug. 31, 2014; and
- Had at least five years of service on Aug. 31, 2014

5 — 6

Tier 5

Tier 6 (GF)

- Current membership began on or after Sept. 1, 2014; or
- Did not have five years of service on Sept. 1, 2014

Service Retirement Eligibility by Tier



1 — 2

Tier 1 (GF)

Tier 2

Normal:

65 and at least 5 years of service; or

Rule of 80 and at least 5 years of service

Early:

55 and at least 5 years of service; or

30 years of service, but **do not** meet the rule of 80

3 — 4

Tier 3

Tier 4 (GF)

Normal:

65 and at least 5 years of service; or

60 AND Rule of 80 with at least 5 years of service

Early:

55 and at least 5 years of service, or

30 years of service, but **do not** meet the rule of 80; or

Less than 60, meet Rule of 80 AND have at least 5 years of service.

5 — 6

Tier 5

Tier 6 (GF)

Normal:

65 and at least 5 years of service; or

62 AND Rule of 80 with at least 5 years of service

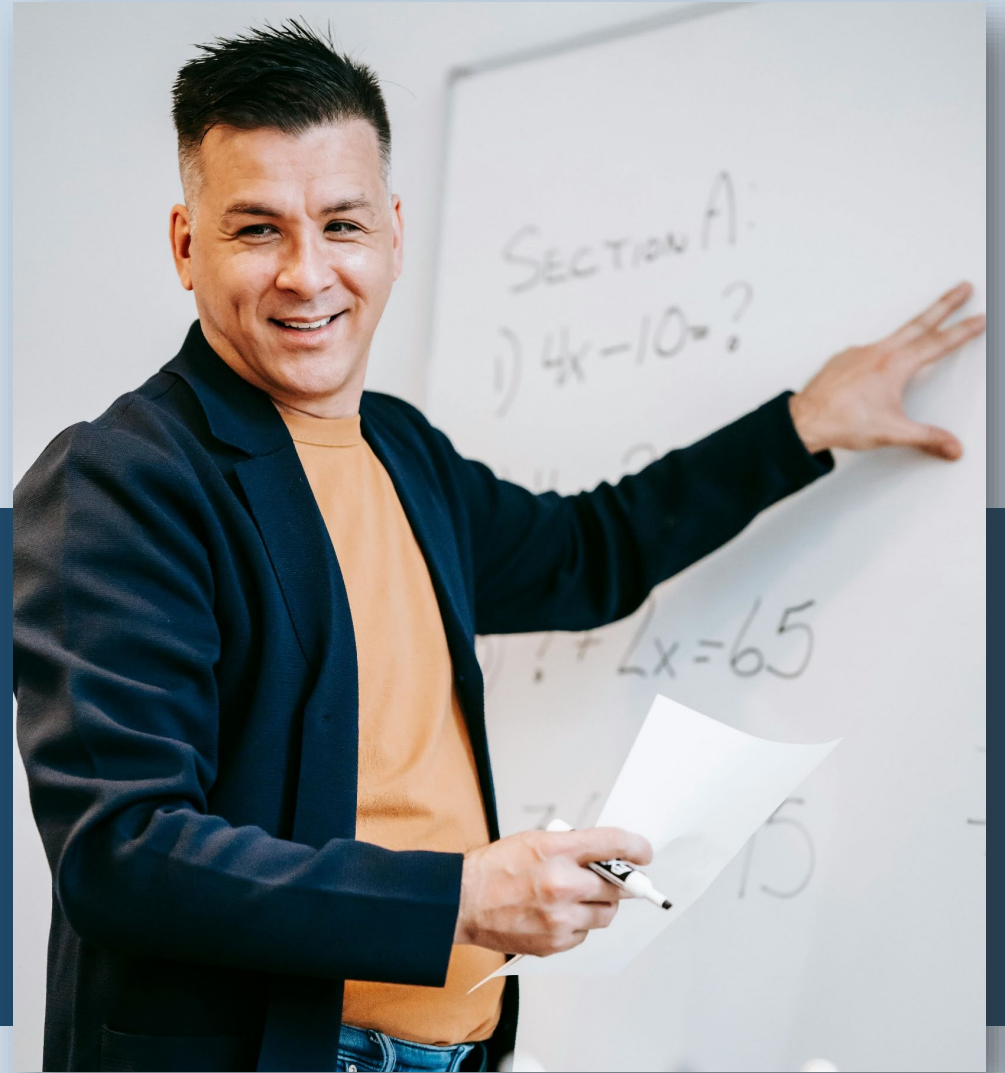
Early:

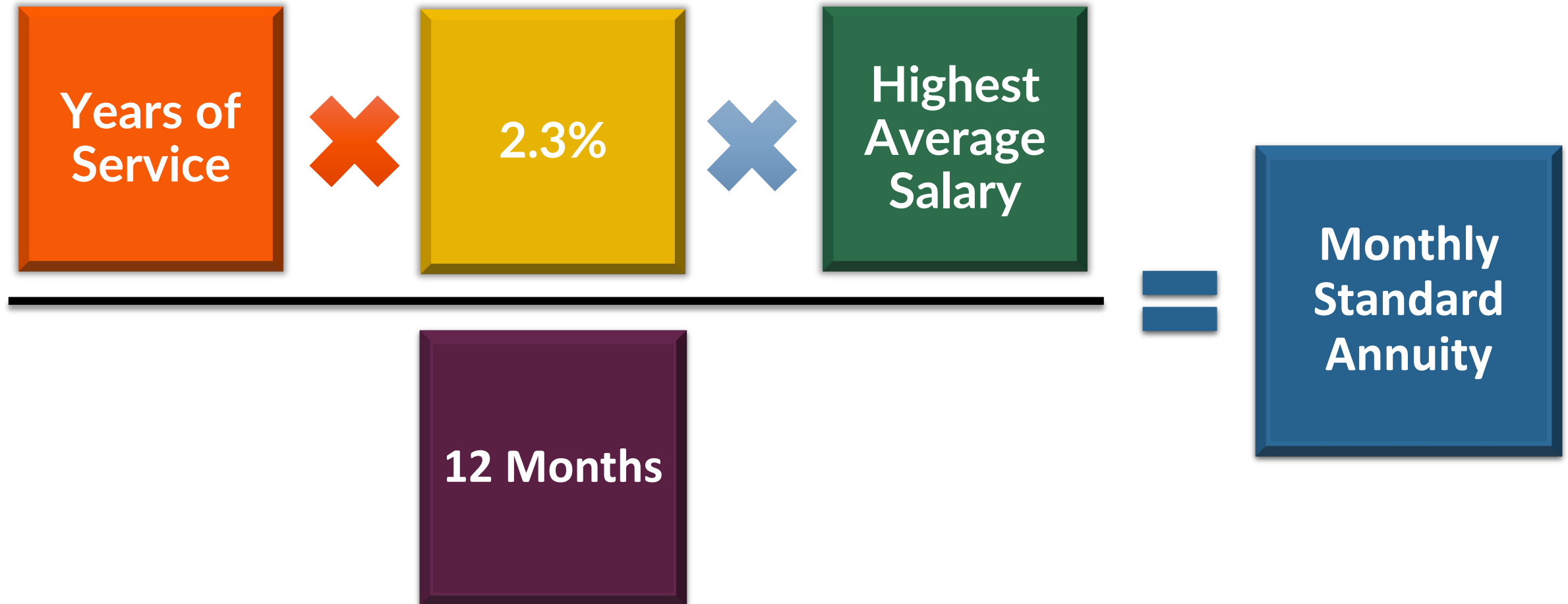
55 and at least 5 years of service; or

30 years of service, but **do not** meet the rule of 80; or

Less than 62, meet Rule of 80 AND have at least 5 years of service.

Retirement Formula and Options





Standard Annuity

No Annuity Payment to Beneficiary

Option 1

100% Joint and Survivor Annuity

Option 2

50% Joint and Survivor Annuity

Option 3

Guaranteed Period – 60 Monthly Payments

Option 4

Guaranteed Period – 120 Monthly Payments

Option 5

75% Joint and Survivor Annuity

Partial lump payment options at retirement for a permanently reduced monthly benefit

12-Month PLSO

Choice of one annual payment

24-Month PLSO

Choice of one or two annual payments

36-Month PLSO

Choice of one, two, or three annual payments

Eligibility

- Mentally or physically disabled from the further performance of duties; and
- Disability is probably permanent
- No age and years of service credit requirement

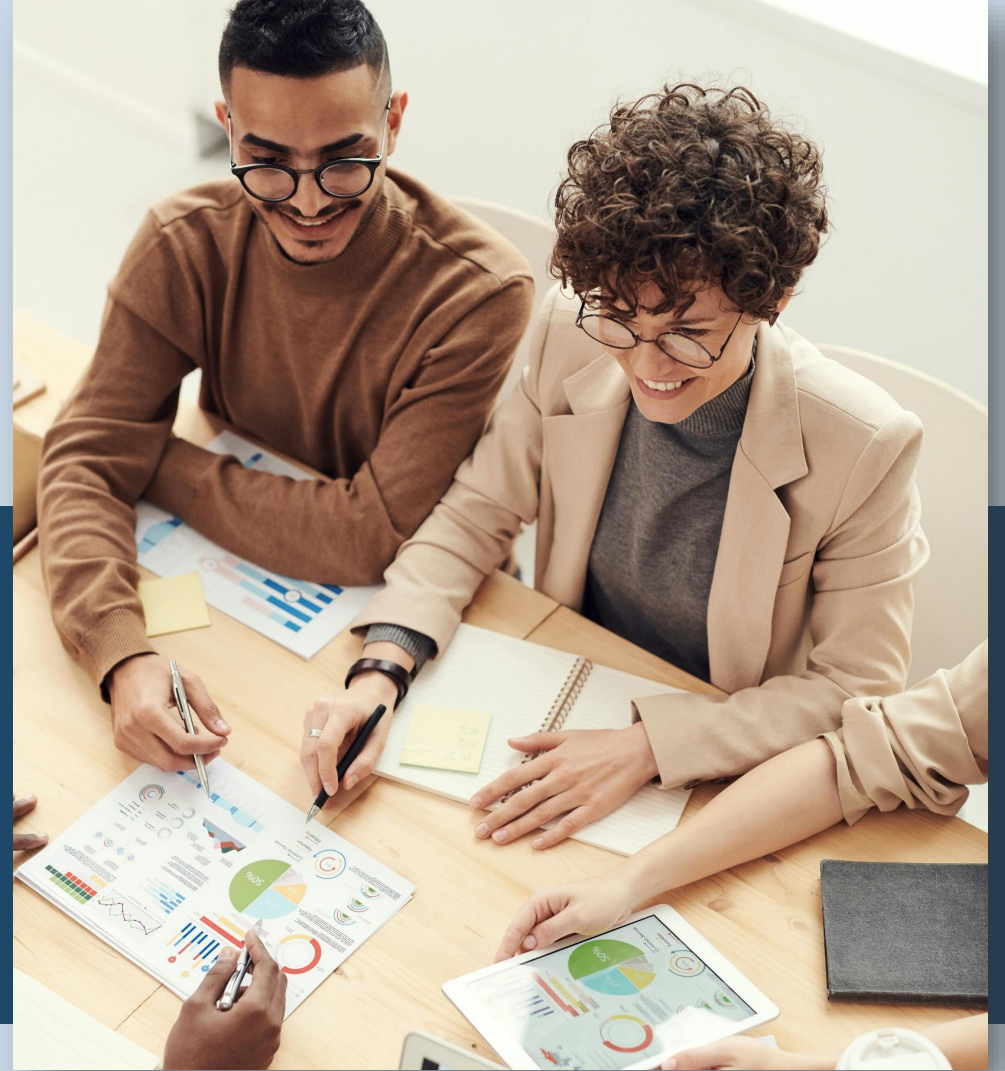
Less than 10 years of service

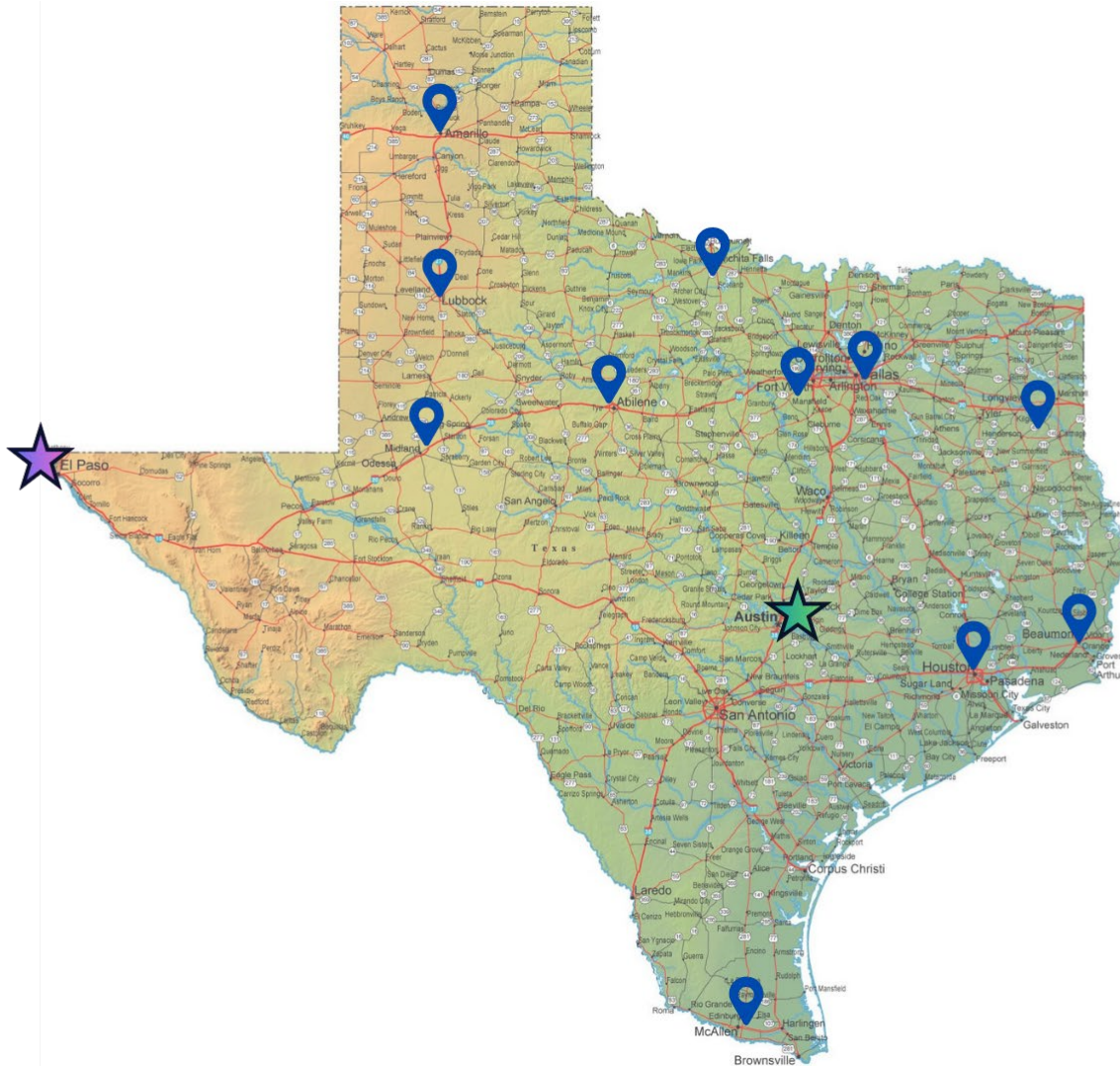
Monthly benefit of \$150 per month for the lesser of the number of months covered by TRS, duration of disability, or duration of life.




10 years of service or more

Monthly annuity not reduced due to early age. Optional annuity payments are available.

TRS Outreach

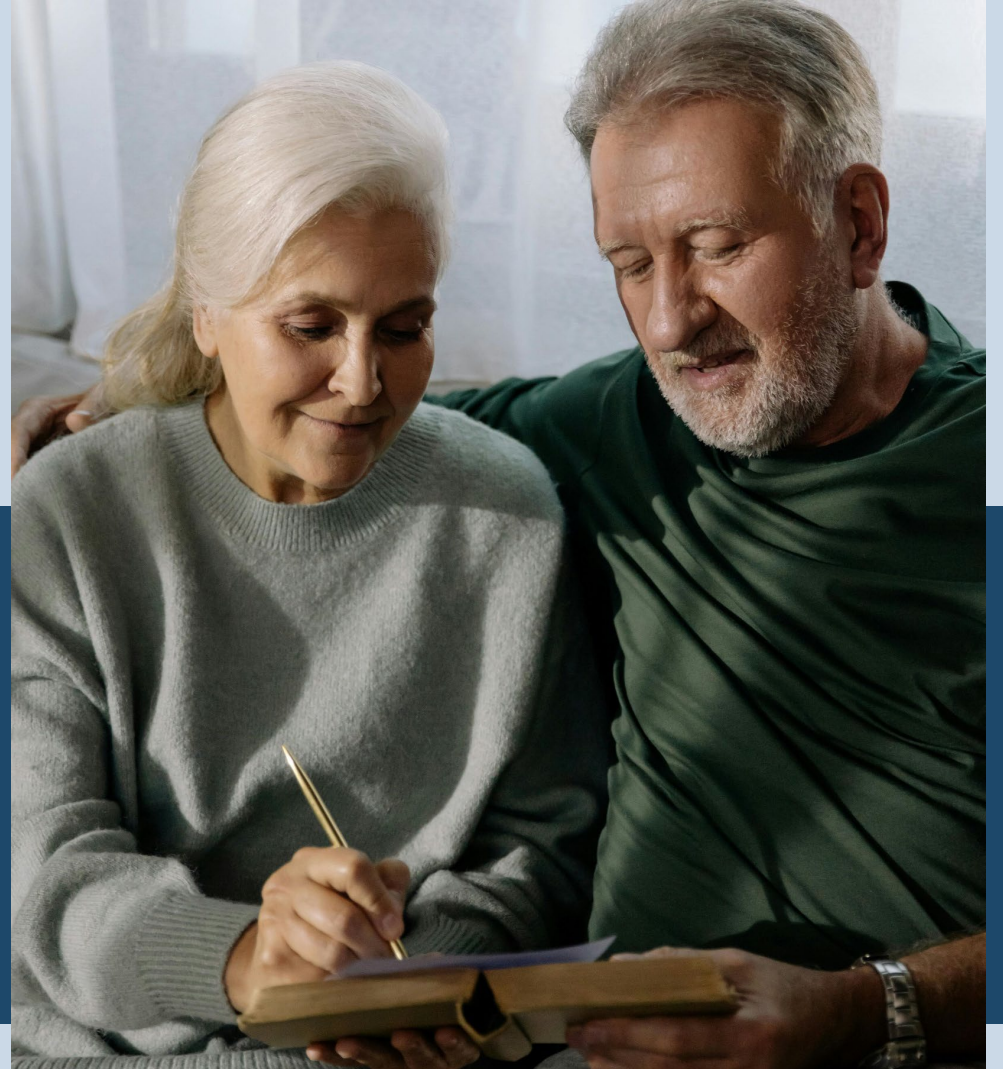




- Austin HQ 
- El Paso Regional Office 
- Field Office Visits 
- Telephone Counseling Center
- Virtual Visits
- Presentations



Retirement Income Planning



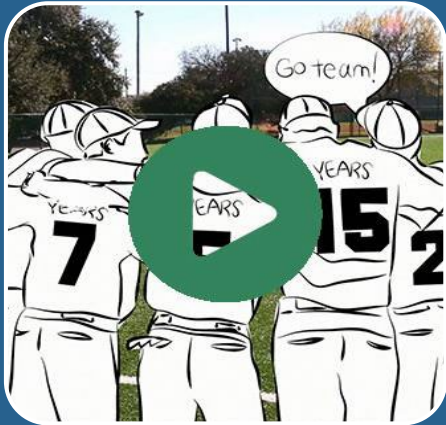
Your income in retirement is a joint responsibility between you and TRS. Experts say you will need 80 – 90% of your pre-retirement income to maintain your current standard of living. You could need more or less than that depending on your lifestyle and several factors, like taxes or medical bills.

There are three pillars used to describe your retirement savings. A secure retirement would depend on two (or in some cases three) of those pillars:

1. **Your TRS pension**
2. **Your personal savings**
3. **Social security.**



Contact your **financial** planner to discuss personal savings options that may be available to you.



Learn more about retirement self-sufficiency through the TRS financial awareness video series.

A Series of short animated whiteboard videos guide you through three important concepts:

- One, what you have – your TRS defined benefit plan.
- Two, what you need – to save more.
- And three, how to get it – by saving smart.
- Some of the videos are more relevant to early and mid-career members, while others may be of more interest to members who are near retirement. However, no matter where you are in your career, you'll find something valuable in every video.



[Retirement Planning Webpage](#)

Planning for Retirement

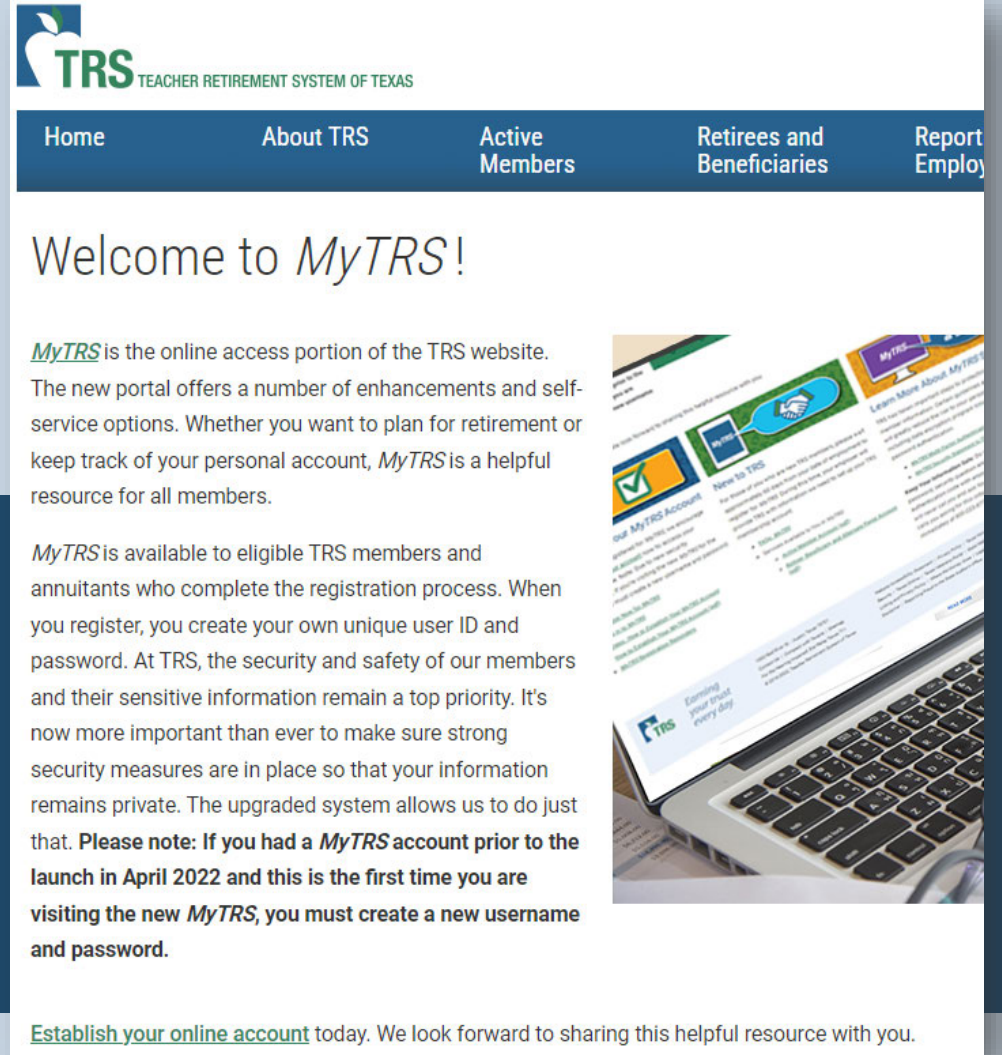
Retiring can be a simple process if you plan ahead. This section of the TRS website provides information and helps you to decide when it is the right time for you to begin the retirement process and what retirement options are available for you. This timeline is meant to be a general example of the retirement process. Your specific timeline may differ.

Planning ahead can help ensure a smooth transition into retirement. TRS experiences a high volume of retirements during the months of May through August. **Don't delay!**

(Click on a block to read more. To return to previous levels, click on the bar for that level.)



Online Resources



The screenshot shows the MyTRS website homepage. At the top is the TRS logo (a green apple with a leaf) and the text "TRS TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF TEXAS". Below the logo is a dark blue navigation bar with white text links: "Home", "About TRS", "Active Members", "Retirees and Beneficiaries", and "Report Employ". The main content area has a large heading "Welcome to *MyTRS*!". Below this is a paragraph: "MyTRS is the online access portion of the TRS website. The new portal offers a number of enhancements and self-service options. Whether you want to plan for retirement or keep track of your personal account, *MyTRS* is a helpful resource for all members." To the right of this text is a graphic showing a laptop screen displaying the MyTRS interface with various icons and text. Below the paragraph is another paragraph: "*MyTRS* is available to eligible TRS members and annuitants who complete the registration process. When you register, you create your own unique user ID and password. At TRS, the security and safety of our members and their sensitive information remain a top priority. It's now more important than ever to make sure strong security measures are in place so that your information remains private. The upgraded system allows us to do just that. **Please note: If you had a *MyTRS* account prior to the launch in April 2022 and this is the first time you are visiting the new *MyTRS*, you must create a new username and password.**" At the bottom of the page is a line of text: "Establish your online account today. We look forward to sharing this helpful resource with you."

TRS TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF TEXAS

Home About TRS Active Members Retirees and Beneficiaries Report Employ

Welcome to *MyTRS*!

MyTRS is the online access portion of the TRS website. The new portal offers a number of enhancements and self-service options. Whether you want to plan for retirement or keep track of your personal account, *MyTRS* is a helpful resource for all members.

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Establish your online account today. We look forward to sharing this helpful resource with you.

If you have not yet registered for MyTRS, we encourage you to [establish your account](#) now to access your information online.

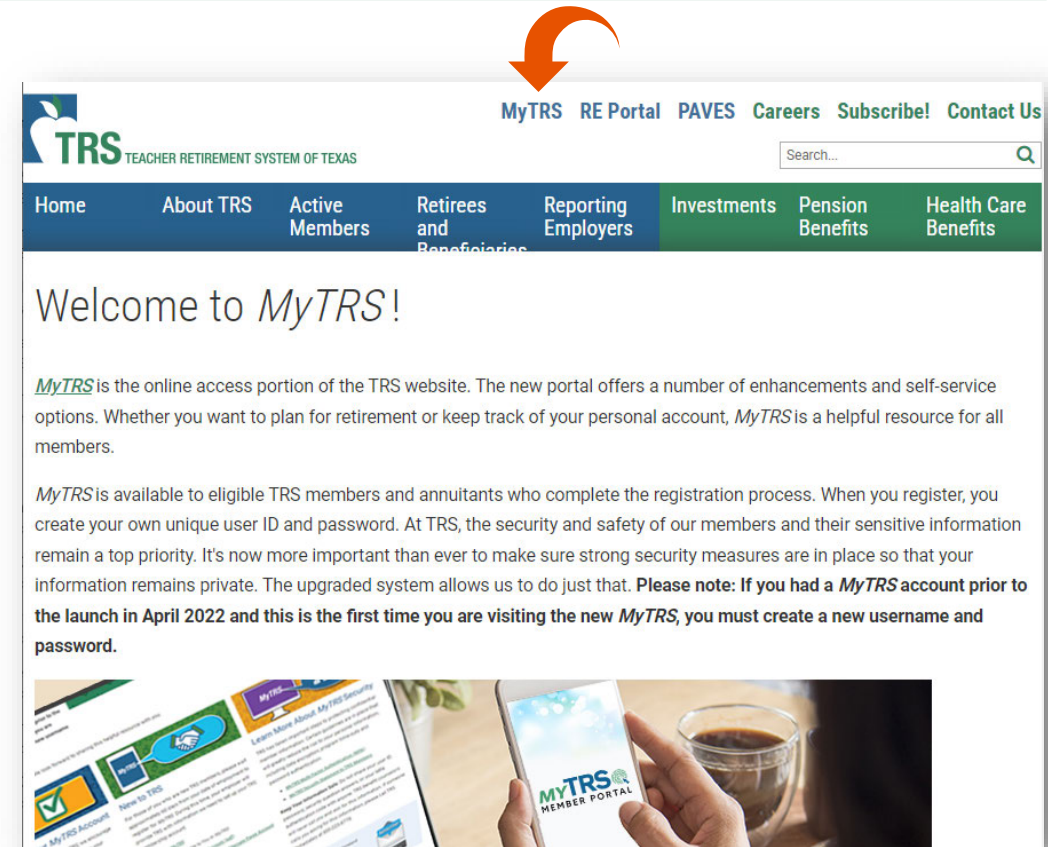
Register Now for MyTRS

Log in to MyTRS

Video: How to Establish Your MyTRS Account

How to Establish Your MyTRS Account (pdf)

MyTRS Registration Reminders



Scan for
MyTRS
Resources



VIEW/PRINT
DOCUMENTS

GENERATE
ACCOUNT
BALANCE

SEND SECURE
MESSAGES

UPDATE ADDRESS

UPDATE EMAIL

UPDATE PHONE

UPDATE
BENEFICIARY

UPDATE
PASSWORD

UPDATE SECURITY
QUESTION

INSIDE: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE / RETIREMENT INFO / HEALTH CARE BENEFITS / RULE CHANGES / QUICK-START GUIDE / MORE!

TRSnews

SUMMER 2023 ★ THE NEWSLETTER of the TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM of TEXAS ★ MEMBER EDITION

TRS Legislative Update


Legislation passed during the 88th Regular Legislative Session that impacts TRS active members and retirees.

GENERAL

STATE CONTRIBUTION INCREASE FROM 8.00% TO 8.25% TO HOUSE BILL (HB) 1 provides funding for the last phase of contribution. As a reminder to our active members and public education employees on Sept. 1 this year. Please see below for the current and upcoming rates.

Calendar Date	State
Sept. 1, 2022	8.00%
Sept. 1, 2023	8.25%
Sept. 1, 2024	8.25%

ADDITIONAL REGIONAL OFFICE HB 1
HB 1 authorized TRS to expend funds for an additional regional office (LBO) and the governor of any decision to open an additional office, do not receive general revenue funding, administrative or better serve our members and reach them closer to where they live. As of May 31, 2023, the office has served almost 3,000 members.




TRS Website: www.trs.texas.gov



Staying in touch with TRS and understanding your benefits will pay off in the long run.

TRS Member Education Videos can help you get answers to some of the most frequently asked questions like...

- ☑ What tier am I?
- ☑ How do I change my beneficiary?
- ☑ Understanding Your Member Statement
- ☑ Purchasing Service Credit

Responsibilities as a Member



IMPORTANT

TRS provides valuable benefits to members, retirees, and beneficiaries. It is important to keep your address, beneficiaries and name updated.



Keep your address current

You must inform TRS in writing of any address changes.

- Log in to MyTRS to update your address.



Keep your beneficiary designation current:

- Log into MyTRS to update your beneficiary.



Notify TRS of name change:

TRS requires notification in writing when you change your name. You must:

- Active members should officially change your name with your TRS employer
- Submit written notice with your Social Security number and your signature.
- Include a copy of a court order or marriage license.



Have you been contacted by someone requesting to meet with you in your home to discuss TRS benefits?

- Teacher Retirement System (TRS) staff members do not make home visits.
- If someone contacts you and asks to meet in your home, that person does not represent TRS.
- These individuals often use organization names or initials that sound very much like TRS.



Contact us by phone or fax

- **1-800-223-8778 Monday–Friday**, 7 a.m.– 6 p.m. Automated information available day or night, seven days a week
- Upload Forms and Documents from the TRS website
- **512-542-6597 TRS Benefit Services Fax Number**
Note: All forms related to pension benefits are acceptable by fax.
- Send a Secure Message from your **MyTRS** account



Social Media

- Find TRS on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), YouTube, and LinkedIn!



THANK YOU



<https://trs.texas.gov>



Austin Headquarters
El Paso Regional Office



Phone: 1-800-223-8778
Fax: 512-542-6597

Presentation Survey

TRS values your opinion and wants the Benefit Presentation to be as useful as possible to members. Please take a moment to complete this form to help us achieve our goal.

