

**TRS MEMBER SERVICES video series.**

**1. INTRODCUTION TO TRS**

**Video file : Introduction to TRS\_Feb7\_FINAL**

**FINAL VIDEO TRANSCRIPT**

00:00

OPENING GRAPHICS

00:09

BARBIE PEARSON:

Welcome to the Teacher Retirement System of Texas and congratulations on your new job! My name is Barbie Pearson and I'm the Chief Benefit Officer.

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For more than 75 years, TRS has served the needs of Texas public education employees like you.

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By contributing to TRS, you are participating in a retirement program that provides retirement, disability and survivor benefits to public school employees and their families.

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The TRS retirement plan is a defined benefit plan. This means that the amount of the benefit you are paid is determined by a formula established by law.

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Your monthly benefit is defined by the formula. It is not limited by the amount of your accumulated member contributions in your TRS member account.

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Generally, the longer you work, the more significant your retirement benefit will be.

01:02

When you become eligible and choose to retire with TRS, you can count on a monthly annuity payment for life.

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TRS service credit is an important part of determining eligibility for TRS benefits. You can receive service credit in two ways:

01:17

Earn membership service credit through eligible employment in Texas public education or purchase service credit when eligible to do so.

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Service credit counts for your retirement eligibility and is earned in one-year increments.

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Only one year of service may be credited in any one school year.

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The most common way to earn a year of service credit is working or receiving paid leave for 90 days between September 1st and August 31st in a TRS-eligible position.

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You must have a minimum of five years of service credit to receive a retirement annuity from TRS.

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The more years of service credit you have, the greater your retirement benefit will be.

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The advantages of your membership with TRS begin on day one.

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The first thing we will send you is a "Welcome to Membership" letter and a Designation of Beneficiary form.

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Please visit our website to view our other Member Educational Videos as well as our Financial Awareness Videos.

02:19

We are here to answer all of your questions. Please call 800-223-8778 to speak with a TRS benefits counselor.

02:28

Thanks for watching.

02:30

END GRAPHICS