

## What is your Retirement Benefit?

Marian Burkey

Members of the Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island have a **Hybrid Retirement Benefits Plan** made up of a Defined Benefit plan

(**Pension plan**) and a Defined Contribution plan

(**DC plan**).



Your Pension Benefit is managed by ERSRI and pays you a specific amount of money per month when you are eligible to retire.

You contribute towards your individual pension.

Your employer contributes into the pension fund for all employees.

The amount of your monthly pension benefit is based on a number of criteria including your schedule, how long you have worked and your salary.

### What is a **Defined Benefit or Pension Plan?**



The Defined Contribution (DC Plan) allows you to save money for your retirement in a tax-deferred account.

You and your employer contribute a percentage of your salary each pay period into your DC plan that is managed by TIAA.

TIAA manages your investments and when you retire you will withdraw money from this account to pay for your living expenses.

## What is a **Defined Contribution** (DC) Plan?



## Your Contributions to your Pension and DC plan

Contributions	Pension Plan	Defined Contribution (DC)
Employee	3.75%	5% (7% if not in Social Security)
Employees with 20+ Years of Service as of June 30, 2012	<b>11%</b> (3.75+5+2.25)	No longer participates in the plan as of 7/1/15

As part of the pension settlement, if you have 20 or more years of service credit as of June 30, 2012, you no longer contribute to the DC Plan as of July 1, 2015 and will continue to own your own account.



## Your Employer Contributions to the DC Plan

Less than 10 Years as of 6/30/12

1% Salary or 3% if not in Social Security

At least 10 years, but less than 15 as of 6/30/12

1.25% Salary or 3.25% if not in Social Security

At least 15 years, but less than 20 as of 6/30/12

1.5% Salary or 3.5% if not in Social Security

20 or more years as of 6/30/12

No longer participates in the DC Plan

Note: Members fall into one of the above categories based on frozen service as of June 30, 2012. They do NOT move between categories as they earn additional years of service.



Schedules are determined by when you were hired and how many years of service you had at certain points in time.

## What's a Schedule?

Years of Service
July 1, 2005

Years of Service September 30, 2009 Years of Service
June 30, 2012

Schedule type impacts when you are eligible to retire, your accruals and service credit factor, and what your benefit will be when you retire.



# How do we Determine Your Schedule?

Please Note: All years must be years of contributing service to be counted towards retirement eligibility.

#### Schedule A

• Active and eligible to retire with either 28 years of service OR age 60 with 10 years on or before 9/30/2009

#### Schedule B

• Active and eligible to retire with either 29 years and age 59 OR age 65 with 10 years on or before 9/30/2009

#### Schedule A BE

• Active with at least 10 years as of 7/1/2005. Not eligible to retire as of 9/30/2009. Became eligible to retire as of 6/30/2012

#### Schedule AB NE

• Active as of 10/1/2009, and not eligible to retire as of 6/30/2012. At least 5 years on or before 6/30/2012.



# How do we Determine Your Schedule?

Please Note: All years must be years of contributing service to be counted towards retirement eligibility.

#### Schedule B1E

• Active but not eligible to retire as of 10/1/2009, but became eligible to retire on or before 6/30/2012

#### Schedule B1NE

• Active but not eligible to retire as of 9/30/2009 or 6/30/2012, and had at least 5 years on or before 6/30/2012

#### Schedule B2

• Hired between 10/01/09 and 6/30/12

#### Schedule B3

• Hired on or after 7/1/2012



## When Can You Retire?

#### 1. Retire with Full Benefits:

a. Schedule Based Retirement Date

OR

- Rule of 95: Your age and service equal 95 (only applies to those whose retirement date is later than age 62)
- 2. Retire Early with Reduced Benefits
  - a) Transition Rule 1
  - b) Transition Rule 2

\*\*\*All members have their own unique retirement eligibility age\*\*\*



## When Can You Retire?

Schedule Based Retirement Date

Schedule AB NE	Schedule B1NE	Schedules B2 and B3
Social Security Normal	Social Security Normal	Social
		Security
	• •	Normal
,	·	Retirement
		Age (SSNRA)
9/30/2009 and 6/30/12	9/30/2009 and 6/30/12	and 5 years of
• Not less than age 59	Not less than age 59	contributory
• 5 years of contributory	• 65 if determined by	service
service	Article 7 calculation	
	• 5 years of contributory service	
	Social Security Normal Retirement Age (SSNRA) proportionally scaled back based on years of service earned as of 9/30/2009 and 6/30/12  Not less than age 59 5 years of contributory	Social Security Normal Retirement Age (SSNRA) proportionally scaled back based on years of service earned as of 9/30/2009 and 6/30/12  Not less than age 59  Social Security Normal Retirement Age (SSNRA) proportionally scaled back based on years of service earned as of 9/30/2009 and 6/30/12  Not less than age 59  Syears of contributory service  Social Security Normal Retirement Age (SSNRA) proportionally scaled back based on years of service earned as of 9/30/2009 and 6/30/12  Not less than age 59  Syears of contributory service  Social Security Normal Retirement Age (SSNRA) proportionally scaled back based on years of service earned as of 9/30/2009 and 6/30/12



## When Can You Retire? Rule of 95

#### Rule of 95:

Members of any schedule type can retire when their age (at least 62 years old) plus their years of service equal 95.

For example:

62 years old + 33 years of service = Rule of 95 Eligible

The Rule of 95 is only used to provide an EARLIER retirement date than your Schedule Based Eligibility Date.



## Retiring Early Transition Rule 1

#### Eligibility for Transition Rule 1:

 You have 20+ years of service and are within 5 years of your full benefit eligibility date.

#### How Early Can You Retire?

Up to five years before your full benefit eligibility date.

#### How is Your Benefit Reduced?

- Your benefit is reduced by a set percentage for each year you leave before your full benefit eligibility date.
- For example if you left 5 years before reaching eligibility you would receive 62% of the benefit earned through your last day of employment.

Year(s) Before Retirement Eligibility	Per Year Reduction	Cumulative Reduction
1	9%	9%
2	8%	17%
3	7%	24%
4	7%	31%
5	7%	38%



## Retiring Early Transition Rule 2

## Eligibility for Transition Rule 2:

You completed 10 years of service by June 30, 2012.

#### How Early Can You Retire?

You can retire based on your eligibility rules in effect as of 9/30/09.

## How is Your Benefit Reduced?

ERSRI will use your Service Credit Factor and Highest Average Salary earned as of June 30, 2012 to calculate your pension.



## Calculating Your Pension Benefit

## How is your pension benefit calculated?





### Calculating Your Service Credit



Each year that you work for a participating employer you accrue a set percentage (your accruals) that are added together to determine your Service Credit Factor.

Your total service credit factor cannot exceed 75-80% depending on your schedule

Schedule	Maximum Service Credit Factor
Schedules A, AB E and AB NE	80%
Schedules B, B1E, B1NE, B2 and B3	75%



## How is Teacher Service Counted?

Number of School Days Worked in a School Year	Years Worked <u>Prior</u> to November 18, 2011	Years worked <u>On or After</u> November 18, 2011		
180+	1.00 Year			
135-179	1.00 Year			
91-134	o.75 Year	Actual Days Worked / 180		
67-90	o.50 Year	maximum of 1 year		
45-66	o.25 Year			
0-44	No Credit			



## Accruals

Year(s) Earned	Schedule A through 6/30/12; AB through 9/30/09	Schedule B through 6/30/12; AB from 10/1/09-6/30/12	Accruals as of 7/1/2012 (all members)	Accruals as of 7/1/15 (if 20 or more years at 6/30/2012)
Years 1-10	1.7%	1.6%	1.0%	n/a
Years 11-20	1.9%	1.8%	1.0%	n/a
Years 21-25	3.0%	2.0%	1.0%	2.0%
Years 26-30	3.0%	2.25%	1.0%	2.0%
Years 31-34	3.0%	2.5%	1.0%	2.0%
Year 35	2.0%	2.5%	1.0%	2.0%
Years 36-37	n/a	2.5%	1.0%	2.0%
Year 38	n/a	2.25%	1.0%	2.0%



## Calculating Your Highest Average Salary

Depending on your schedule, your highest average salary is the average of your highest 3 or 5 consecutive (back to back) years of salary.

Highest Average Salary

Schedule	Highest Average Salary
Schedule A and B	3 highest consecutive years
Schedules AB E, AB NE, B1E, B1NE, B2, and B3	5 highest consecutive years



## Your Pension Payment Options

- A Qualified Domestic Relations Order (QDRO) may restrict your pension payment options.
- Option 1: J&S100 and Option 2: J&S50 are actuarially reduced benefits based on difference in age between member and beneficiary.
- One time change is permitted while living if Option 1: J&S100 and Option 2: J&S50. The change of option form must be received by ERSRI prior to death.

Payment Option	Amount	Spouse/Beneficiary Amount	Allowed to Switch Options One Time?
Service Retirement Allowance (SRA)	Full benefit paid monthly to the member	\$0	No
Option 1: Joint & Survivor 100%	Reduced benefit	Spouse or beneficiary receives same monthly benefit after member's death	Yes – to Option 2 or SRA
Option 2: Joint & Survivor 50%	Reduced benefit	Spouse or beneficiary receives 50% of the monthly benefit after member's death	Yes – to Option 1 or SRA
SRA Plus (Schedule A & AB only)	Higher benefit prior to age 62. Reduced pension after 62	<b>\$</b> O	No

Eпіріоуееs' Retirement System of Rhode Island

**Teachers** 

20

## Receiving Your Pension Payments

- Your first pension payment will be received 2-3 months after retirement. (Payment is retroactive to date of retirement or the first of month in which we received your application whichever is later.)
- Each payment will be directly deposited to your bank account.
- An e-mail will be sent to you each month notifying you that your direct deposit stub is available online.
- Payments will be made on the last business day of the month for the month.



## Death Benefit

#### What benefits are your survivors entitled to?

- A member's designated beneficiary is eligible to receive a one time death benefit payment regardless of retirement option selected.
- Benefit is \$800 per year of completed service, up to a maximum benefit of \$16,000 with 20 years of service.
- Benefit reduces 25% each year of retirement to a minimum death benefit of \$4,000.

Please be sure to keep your beneficiary information up to date with ERSRI.



## Teachers Survivors' Benefits

#### What are Teachers Survivors' Benefits (TSB)?

 TSB provides a lifetime monthly benefit to qualified survivors upon the death of the member.

#### Which School Districts Participate in TSB?

- School districts that do not participate in Social Security offer TSB.
- Barrington, Bristol-Warren, Burrillville, Central Falls, Coventry, Cranston, Cumberland, East Greenwich, East Providence, Foster, Glocester, Johnston, Lincoln, Little Compton, Middletown, Newport, North Smithfield, Portsmouth, Scituate, Smithfield, Tiverton, and Westerly.

#### How Much do You Contribute to TSB?

• Teacher Contributions = \$115.00 per year (or 1% of salary if less than \$115.00).

#### How Long until You Vest in TSB?

 Teachers must make TSB contributions for 6 consecutive calendar months prior to his or her death or retirement in order to qualify for a TSB benefit.



## Teachers Survivors' Benefits

#### What are your Options When you Retire?

Teachers gets a one time election to *either*:

1. Take a lump sum refund of contributions with interest and forfeit all rights to a future benefit .

OR

2. Maintain coverage for your survivor by leaving your contributions in the TSB fund.

#### What Benefits Will Your Survivor Receive?

• Maintaining coverage provides up to a \$1,375 monthly benefit for a spouse, domestic partner or dependent parent or up to \$1031.25 for a dependent child upon your death.



## What About A Cost of Living Adjustment?

#### Annual COLA and 4 Year COLA:

- If the ERS plan (teachers, state, judges, and state police) is less than 80% funded, the Annual COLA is suspended.
- For plans less than 80% funded, an interim 4 Year COLA is paid to members once they become COLA eligible.
- The Annual COLA resumes when your plan is 80% funded.

#### **COLA Eligibility**

 Members retiring today become eligible for the Annual COLA and 4 Year COLA the month after reaching their Social Security Normal Retirement Age AND the three year anniversary date of their retirement.



## What About A Cost of Living Adjustment?

#### **COLA Calculation:**

- The Annual and 4-Year COLAs are calculated based on equal parts of 50% of investment performance minus 5%, and 50% of inflation with a maximum COLA of 3.5%.
- For members retiring now, the Annual and 4 Year COLAs are paid on the first \$25,855 (indexed) of your annual pension benefit.



## Retirement Forms

#### Divorced?

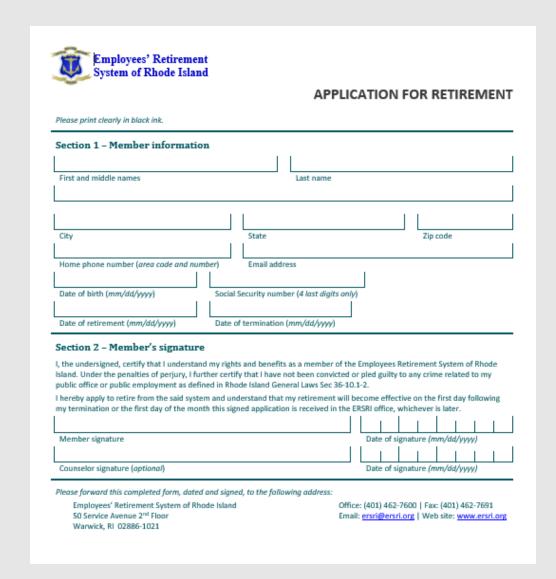
Please be sure to provide you final court entered divorce judgement and property settlement agreement with your retirement paperwork.

#### ■ Application for Retirement

- Send to ERSRI, 50 Service Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Warwick, RI 02886 before your last day.
- Option Election Form
  - Send to ERSRI, 50 Service Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Warwick, RI 02886 before your last day.
- ☐ Teachers Survivors' Benefit Election Form
  - Send to ERSRI, 50 Service Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Warwick, RI 02886 before your last day.
- □ Tax Withholding Form
  - Send to ERSRI, 50 Service Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Warwick, RI 02886 before your last day.
- ☐ Direct Deposit Form
  - Send to ERSRI, 50 Service Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Warwick, RI 02886 before your last day.
- Employer Certification of Retirement and Final Wages
  - Send to your payroll/human resources department within 3 months prior to terminating employment.
- ☐ Retiree Health Care Election (if applicable for health from state)
  - If under 65, send to Office of Employee Benefits, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908 before your last day.
  - If age 65 or older contact OneExchange at 844-448-7298
- Beneficiary Designation Form
  - Send to ERSRI, 50 Service Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Warwick, RI 02886 before your last day.



## Application for Retirement





### Membership Information

#### PLANNAME

#### **Membership Information**

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information shown below. Any changes in the information below may affect the amount of benefit or refund displayed on the Retirement Benefit Statement. If you feel that any of the information is incorrect, please contact ERSRI. If no information is displayed in the below "Beneficiary as per our Records" section, or if the information is incorrect, please complete the Beneficiary Designation Form available on the ERSRI website at <a href="https://www.ersri.org">www.ersri.org</a>.

#### RETIREMENT INFORMATION

Last day of employment TerminationDate
Date of retirement RetirementDate

#### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of birth
Date of employment
Date of 1st contribution
Marital status

BirthDate
EmploymentDate
MembershipDate
MaritalStatus

#### BENEFICIARY AS PER OUR RECORDS

Name of beneficiary
Date of birth of beneficiary
Relationship
Benefit type

FirstName LastName
BirthDate
Type
Benefit Type

Name of beneficiary
Date of birth of beneficiary
Relationship
Benefit type
Benefit Type
Benefit Type

#### SERVICE

Contributing service (including refund buyback)

Other purchased service

Total service as of retirement date

Contributing service

Purchased service

Total service

#### SERVICE CREDIT FACTOR

Service credit factor as of retirement date Service credit factor

#### HIGHEST AVERAGE SALARY

29

Highest average salary as of retirement date

Salary

Highest salary for TSB

TSBSalary



## Option Election Form

PLAN NAME - SCHEDULE

#### Option Election Form

Before making any decision, carefully read the **Explanation of Benefits** section and review the options available below. Please select only one payment option by placing your initials next to the payment option you choose and then writing in the letter choice below. Sign and date this statement.

The final amounts will be determined upon processing the pension payment.

			Monthly pensi	
			To pensioner	On death of pensioner
			To pensioner	or pensioner
	SRA - Service Retirement Allowance			
Α.	From July 1, 2020		\$4.023.67	\$0.0
	From July 1, 2020		94,023.07	30.0
В	Option 1 - Joint & Survivor 100%			
	From July 1, 2020		\$3,540.83	\$3,540.8
c	Option 2 - Joint & Survivor 50%			
	From July 1, 2020		\$3,782.25	\$1,891.1
				. ,
D	SRA Plus - Social Security Option *			
	From July 1, 2020 to May 1, 2023		\$5,852.92	\$0.0
	From May 1, 2023		\$3,594.58	\$0.0
b	ereby request that the benefits to which I are	m entitled under the Plan he na	id according to /indicate	
	ır choice)		nd according to (marcate	the letter of
yaı	ır choice)			
yaı				
Jo	ır choice)	d a Joint and Survivor payment optic	on please designate your be	neficiary below.
Joi Fire	ir choice) int and Survivor Beneficiary: if you selecte	d a Joint and Survivor payment optic MI: Last name:	on please designate your be	neficiary below.
Jo Fire Add	ir choice) int and Survivor Beneficiary: if you selecte	d a Joint and Survivor payment optic  MI: Last name:  City, State Zip Code: _	on please designate your be	neficiary below.
Jo Fir:	int and Survivor Beneficiary: if you selecte st name:	d a Joint and Survivor payment optic  MI: Last name:  City, State Zip Code: _	on please designate your be	neficiary below.
Joi Fir: Adi	int and Survivor Beneficiary: if you selecte st name:	d a Joint and Survivor payment optic  MI: Last name:  City, State Zip Code: _	on please designate your be	neficiary below.



# Teachers Survivors' Benefit Election

**Option Election Form** PLAN NAME- SCHEDULE Teachers Survivors' Benefit Choose only one option by checking the box next to your selection. Sign and date this statement. I elect: to have my Teachers Survivors' Benefit (TSB) contributions with interest, totaling \$ Amount, refunded in a lump sum. I understand that if I choose to receive a refund of my contributions to the TSB Fund, my survivors are no longer entitled to benefits from the TSB Plan. Or, to maintain Teachers Survivors' Benefit coverage by leaving my contributions in the TSB Fund with the Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island. I understand that this is a one-time election and I cannot change the option once I have begun to receive a pension benefit. Signature of Member Date

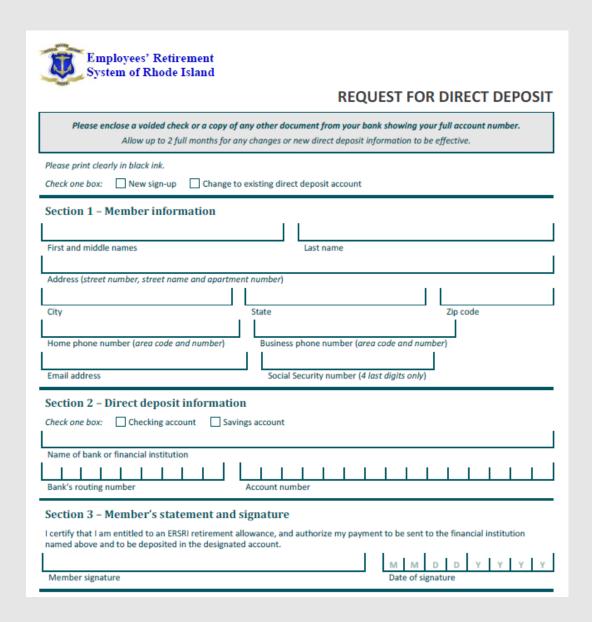


## Tax Election Form





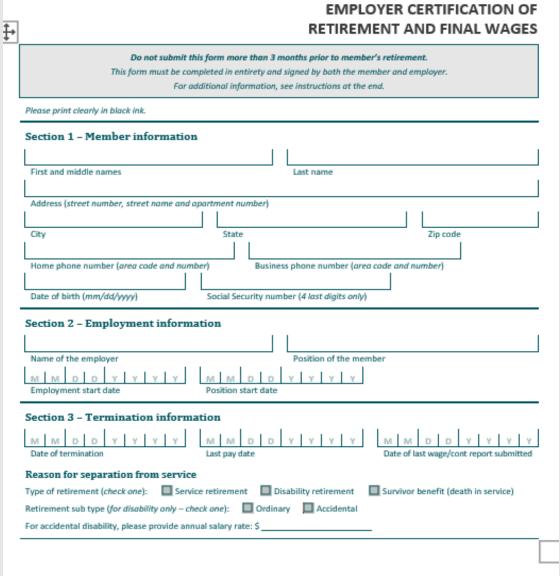
### Direct Deposit Form





### Employer Certification of Retirement and Final Wages – Page 1







### Employer Certification of Retirement and Final Wages – Page 3



#### EMPLOYER CERTIFICATION OF RETIREMENT AND FINAL WAGES

#### Section 6 - Salary certification (continued)

	Year	Retro payments (if applicable to years listed)	Effective date of retro	Amount of retro per pay period	10 month employee	12 month employee
Ε.						
⋖ .						
ST						

#### Section 7 - Disclaimer and signatures

The member understands that the Employment information, Termination information and Unreported wages, contributions and service credit contained on this form have been provided solely by the employer. By signing this form the member acknowledges that he/she has voluntarily made the decision to submit the completed form to the Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island (ERSRI) which includes the member's date of termination and projected final wages and service credits through the date of termination. The member further understands that if he/she has made the determination not to terminate after submission of this form, he/she must notify ERSRI in writing immediately. After the member's pension has been processed, no further contributions will be accepted after the date of termination provided on this form, and once the member has cashed a pension check, the member's retirement is final and cannot be rescinded.

The undersigned acknowledges that he/she has read the foregoing disclaimer, understands the contents, has reviewed all information provided for accuracy and has determined it to be correct, and is signing it freely and voluntarily.

I understand that any person who makes a false statement or shall falsify or permit to be falsified any record to the retirement system in an attempt to defraud the system may be subject to criminal prosecution, and with that understanding, I certify that all information on this form is true and correct.

	M M D D Y Y Y
Authorized employer representative signature	Date of signature
Authorized employer representative name (print)	Title
Authorized employer representative phone number (area code and number)	
	M M D D Y Y Y
Member signature	Date of signature

Please forward this completed form, dated and signed, to the following address:

Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island 50 Service Avenue 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

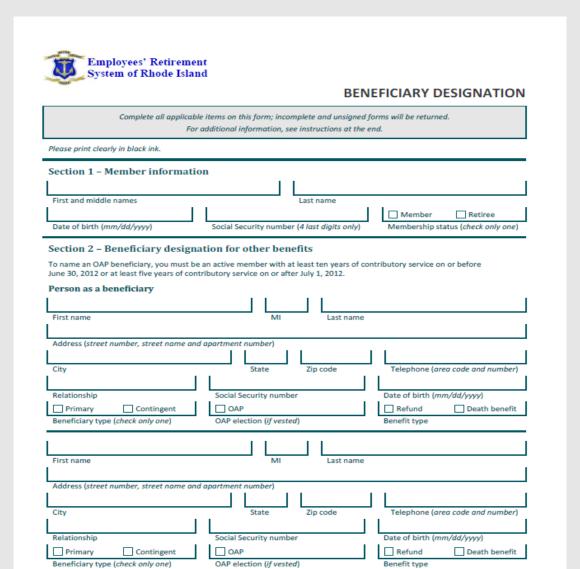
Warwick, RI 02886-1021

Office: (401) 462-7600 | Fax: (401) 462-7691 Email: ersri@ersri.org | Web site: www.ersri.org



35

## Beneficiary Designation Form



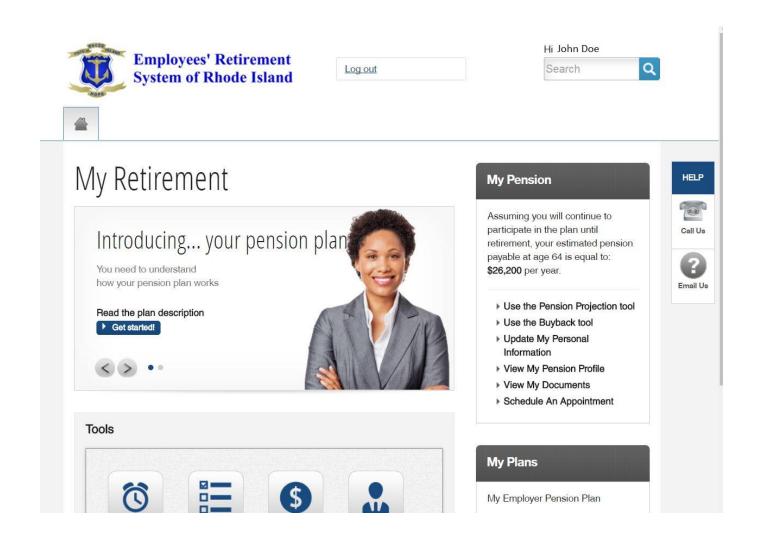


## ERSRI Online Registration

Go to www.ERSRI.org to register your My Retirement account.

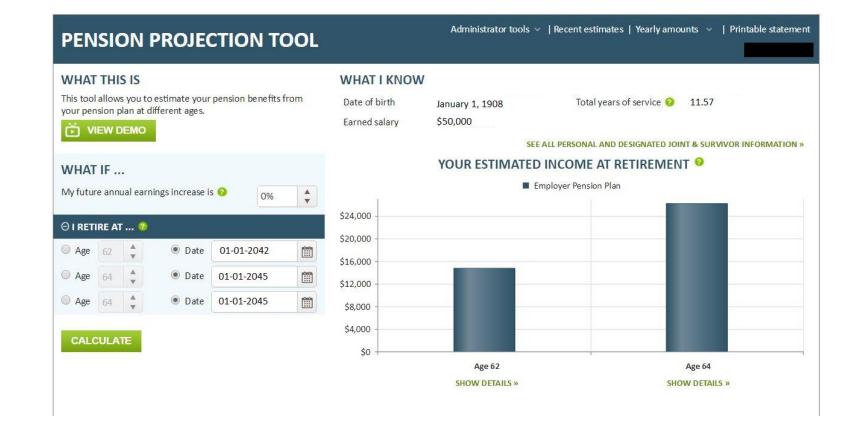
The self registration process will ask you for identifying personal information and give you a log in ID.

Be sure to write down your log in ID and password in a safe place.





# How to Run a Benefit Estimate Online





## Post Retirement Employment

Hired Post Retirement as a	Days Allowed Before Pension Suspension	Gross Pay Allowed Before Pension Suspension	Time Period
State Employee	0	\$0	N/A
Registered Nurse	75 (or 150 half days)	N/A	CalendarYear
Classroom Instructor, Academic Advisor, or Coach at a State School Or College	N/A	\$18,000	CalendarYear
Drivers Ed Teacher	N/A	\$15,000	CalendarYear
MERS Employee	75 (or 150 half days)	N/A	CalendarYear
Teacher	90 (or 180 half days)	N/A	School Year
Elected MERS official	Unlimited *	Unlimited *	N/A
Unpaid state or municipal board	Unlimited *	Unlimited *	N/A
Non Participating Municipality Employee	Unlimited	Unlimited	N/A

Any employment or reemployment may begin no earlier than 45 days after separation/termination from employment

FERSRI
Employees' Retirement
System of Rhode Island

<sup>\*</sup> Unlimited except for those who previously worked and earned service credit as an elected official or board member.

## Post Retirement Employment

#### Your Employer's Post Retirement Employment Responsibilities:

- Retirement contributions will not be deducted from your wages and you will not earn any additional retirement service credit for any post-retirement employment.
- Reporting days worked or earnings depending on employment type to ERSRI on a monthly basis.
- Schools filling a vacant position must send letter to ERSRI and their union certifying a good faith effort was made to fill position with non-retiree. This includes coaching, tutoring and consulting. Vacant positions may only be filled by a retiree for 90 days.

#### Your Post Retirement Employment Responsibilities:

40

- It is your responsibility to ensure that while collecting a retirement benefit your employment does not violate any statutory restrictions.
- Your post retirement earnings or days will be reported to ERSRI and available to review in your member portal at <a href="https://www.ersri.org">www.ersri.org</a>. It is your responsibility to ensure your employer is accurately reporting your employment. Please follow up with your employer if there is a discrepancy.
- No "mixing and matching". You cannot participate in more than 1 area that is limited by statute.
- Post-retirement provisions apply if you are a consultant or corporation or employee of another party providing services to a ERS or MERS employer.



#### Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island (ERSRI)

50 Service Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Warwick, RI 02886 (401) 462-7600 www.ersri.org

### Important Contact Information

Office of Employee Benefits – Retiree Health (Age 59-64)

One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908 (401) 574-8530 www.employeebenefits.ri.gov

Via Benefits – Retiree Health (Age 65+)

1-844-448-7298 www.my.viabenefits.com/ri TIAA - DC Plan Coordinator

Providence Office 1-800-897-1026 http://www.tiaa-cref.org/ri

**Federal Social Security** 

Providence Office 1-877-402-0808 www.ssa.gov

