

# STRS Ohio and Your Benefits

#### Your Plan Features at a Glance

Defined Benefit Plan Features

**Survivor Benefits** 

**Disability Benefits** 

**Purchasing Service Credit** 

**Joint Service Credit** 

**Death Benefits** 

Health Care Coverage<sup>1</sup>

**Lifetime Benefits** 

Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)<sup>2</sup>

Defined Contribution Plan Features

**Purchasing Service Credit** —

may make contributions on salary not earned<sup>3</sup>

**Death Benefits** 

(may purchase)

**Lifetime Benefits** 

Combined Plan Features

**Survivor Benefits** 

**Disability Benefits** 

**Purchasing Service Credit** —

may make contributions on salary not earned<sup>3</sup>

**Death Benefits** 

(may purchase)

Health Care Coverage<sup>1</sup>

**Lifetime Benefits** 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>The State Teachers Retirement Board will periodically evaluate whether a cost-of-living increase is payable in accordance with the law in effect at that time. <sup>3</sup>Limited to teaching interrupted by military service.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The STRS Ohio Health Care Program is not guaranteed.

#### **Service Credit**



- Earned credit
- Purchased service credit
  - May be eligible to purchase service credit for certain types of past employment or leaves of absence
- Joint service credit
  - Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS)
  - School Employees Retirement System of Ohio (SERS)
  - Must be nonconcurrent

## **Service Retirement Eligibility**



Retirement dates	Unreduced benefit (minimum age and years of service)	Reduced benefit (minimum age and years of service)
June 1, 2025–May 1, 2030	Any age and 32 years; or age 65 and 5 years	Any age and 27 years; or age 60 and 5 years
June 1, 2030–May 1, 2032	Any age and 33 years; or age 65 and 5 years	Any age and 28 years; or age 60 and 5 years
On or after June 1, 2032	Any age and 34 years; or age 65 and 5 years	Any age and 29 years; or age 60 and 5 years



# Understanding Your Retirement Plans of Payment Options

Defined Benefit Plan, Defined Contribution Plan and Combined Plan Participants



## **Understanding Your Plan of Payment**

#### **Plans of Payment:**

You must select one of the following Plans of Payment at retirement. All plans provide you with lifetime benefits but vary in protection provided to survivors. Reselection is permitted only under limited circumstances. Please refer to the *Service Retirement and Plans of Payment* brochure for more information.

I. Single Life Annuity (SLA)

Maximum monthly benefit

Benefit for your lifetime Thereafter to Survivor \$ 4,363 None



## **Understanding Your Plan of Payment**

#### II. Joint and Survivor Annuity for spouse beneficiary born on 02/15/1966

Same to Beneficiary			
1(A) with reversion	\$ 4,055	92.95% of SLA	\$ 4,055
1(B) 5-year guarantee without reversion	\$ 4,081	93.55% of SLA	\$ 4,081
1(C) 15-year guarantee without reversion	\$ 4,077	93.46% of SLA	\$ 4,077
1/2 to Beneficiary			
2(A) with reversion	\$ 4,204	96.36% of SLA	\$ 2,102
2(B) 5-year guarantee without reversion	\$ 4,218	96.67% of SLA	\$ 2,109
2(C) 15-year guarantee without reversion	\$ 4,216	96.63% of SLA	\$ 2,108
1/3 to Beneficiary			
3(A) with reversion	\$ 4,255	97.53% of SLA	\$ 1,418
3(B) without reversion	\$ 4,265	97.75% of SLA	\$ 1,421



## **Understanding Your Plan of Payment**

#### III. Annuity Certain

Lifetime benefit with a guarantee period for protection of beneficiary 10-year guarantee

\$ 4,324 99.10% of SLA

None after guarantee period ends

#### Partial Lump-sum Option Plan (PLOP)

This plan allows you to take an amount from six to thirty-six times the SLA benefit in a lump sum at retirement. The monthly benefit is permanently reduced by \$7.10 per \$1,000 PLOP payment at age 58 to reflect the amount taken in a lump sum. PLOP may be selected in combination with any plan of payment.

Minimum PLOP Amount. . . . . \$ 26,180 PLOP adjusted SLA for Minimum PLOP. . . . . \$ 4,179

Maximum PLOP Amount..... \$ 157,080 PLOP adjusted SLA for Maximum PLOP.... \$ 3,259



DB and CO Plan

#### **Taxes and Your STRS Ohio Benefits**

#### Benefits are subject to:

- Federal income tax
- Ohio income tax (Ohio residents only)
- School district tax may apply

#### **Exempt from:**

Local or municipal tax





#### **Health Care in Retirement**

Available to Defined Benefit and Combined Plan members\*



- Must have 20 or more years of total service credit
  - Medical
  - Dental
  - Vision
- Premium subsidy for medical plan based on years of service

#### Health Care Plan Costs for 2026

Without Medicare (Aetna Basic Plan)		With Medicare (Aetna Medicare Plan)
\$340 to \$849	Monthly subsidized premium per benefit recipient	\$37 to \$100
\$2,500	Annual deductible per enrollee	<b>\$0</b>
0%	Enrollee share for most preventive services	0%
\$20 no deductible	Enrollee share for primary care physician office visit	<b>\$0</b>
20% after deductible	Hospital services (inpatient/outpatient)	4% after deductible
\$6,500	Out-of-pocket maximum per enrollee for covered medical services	\$1,500



## Dental and Vision Coverage



- Separate from medical plan coverage
- Delta Dental and Vision Service Plan (VSP)
  - May enroll in one or both plans
  - Benefit recipient must be enrolled to enroll a spouse/eligible dependent
  - Enrollment is required for balance of contract period: Effective date through Dec. 31, 2026
    - Future enrollment based on two-year contract

#### If You Are Within 12–18 Months of Retirement



#### **Attend educational programs**

- Retirement Countdown
- Getting Retirement Ready video series



#### Obtain a current estimate of benefits

- Online Personal Account
- Schedule an appointment with an STRS Ohio benefits counselor



#### Returning to public Ohio employment after retirement

- Must wait two months following retirement date
- May work for any Ohio employer after two months



#### If You Are Less Than 12 Months From Retirement



# Verify employer requirements for separation of service

- "Paying off" balance of employment contract
- Health care coverage end date
- Disbursement of unused sick pay

#### **Apply for service retirement**

Consult your retirement planning advisors to review your retirement readiness

#### Resources Available to You



- STRS Ohio website
  - Benefit brochures (Publications section)
- 888-227-7877 (toll-free)
- Seminars and webinars
- Individual or group benefits counseling (virtual or in-person)







## Feedback & Questions?



This presentation is intended for educational purposes only. Statements of fact and opinions expressed are those of the participants individually, and unless expressly stated to the contrary, do not necessarily reflect the views of STRS Ohio, the State Teachers Retirement Board or the retirement system's staff. This presentation is not intended to be a substitute for federal or state law, including the Ohio Revised Code, the Ohio Administrative Code, or the Internal Revenue Code, nor will this presentation's interpretation prevail should a conflict arise between it and any state or federal law. The laws, statutes, rules and other regulations governing the retirement system are subject to change periodically.