

Congratulations on becoming a member of the State Employees' Retirement System! When you are hired as a new state employee, there are several areas you need to be aware of. Our goal is to educate you about our retirement, disability and death benefits. This brochure gives you an overview of SERS information.

SERS MISSION STATEMENT

To provide an orderly means whereby aged or disabled employees may be retired from active service, without prejudice or hardship, and to enable the employees to accumulate reserves for themselves and their dependents for old age, disability, death and termination of employment, thus effecting economy and efficiency in the administration of the State Government.

**BECOMING
A STATE
EMPLOYEE**



ELIGIBILITY

After serving a six-month qualifying period, you become a member of the State Employees' Retirement System (SERS). Mandatory contributions are automatically credited to your account.

With certain exceptions, all members who join SERS must contribute to Social Security. If your position is not covered by Social Security, membership begins immediately.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions are based on a percentage of total compensation, including overtime pay. All contributions are credited to your account, regardless of the source. Some state employees have all or a percentage "picked up" or paid by the State of Illinois.



Regular Retirement Formula Contributions

Employee

With Social Security	4%
Without Social Security	8%

Alternative Retirement Formula Contributions

Employee

With Social Security	8.5%
Without Social Security	12.5%

RECIPROCITY

If you have at least one year of credited service under an Illinois Public Retirement System, your service under that system may be used to determine your eligibility for a benefit from SERS.

SERVICE

CREDITED SERVICE

Credited service is the total amount of credit toward retirement, including any optional credit that may have been purchased and any free military service that may have been granted.

You earn credited service for each month you make the required contributions (see below). The amount of credited service affects the amount of your retirement; the more months of credit, the greater the benefit.

OPTIONAL SERVICE CREDIT

Optional service credit is time that may be purchased to increase your pension. It includes: qualifying periods, short periods of employment, leaves of absence, military service, and the repayment of a refund(s).

BENEFITS

RETIREMENT BENEFITS

- Retirement benefits are based on service, final average compensation and age. Normal retirement is age 60 with eight years of service. If your age plus years of service equal 85, you may retire at any age.
- The alternative formula applies to certain members with 20 years in an alternative position.

DISABILITY BENEFITS

If you become disabled, cannot perform your job duties and remain unemployed, disability benefits are paid based on your rate of pay. The benefit amount is based on the cause of your disability—occupational or non-occupational.

DEATH BENEFITS

Death benefits are payable to your spouse, children and named beneficiaries. The benefit amount is determined by the cause of your death—occupational or non-occupational. Lump sum death benefits are payable to your named beneficiaries.

OTHER INFORMATION

ANNUAL BENEFIT STATEMENT

In August, you will receive your Annual Benefit Statement. This statement includes information regarding your beneficiary(ies), credited service, contributions, retirement, disability, and death benefits.

PRE-RETIREMENT WORKSHOPS

SERS offers three pre-retirement workshops throughout the state for all state employees and their spouses. Each workshop reflects different phases throughout your career.

To enroll in a pre-retirement workshop, contact your agency's Retirement Coordinator. If you have questions about the workshops, call the Field Services Division at 217-785-6979.

SERS WEBSITE



SERS is on the Internet at www.state.il.us/srs. The website provides an overview of benefits, and gives you easy access to a variety of information: current retirement issues, how to contact us, and answers to frequently asked questions.

Plus, we are always adding new features to our website to make it even more informative!