


READY. SET. RETIRE.

ERS offers competitive benefits to enhance the lives of its members.



ERS[®]
EMPLOYEES  RETIREMENT
SYSTEM OF TEXAS

Ready, Set, Retire!

Topics:

- Retirement benefit
- Retirement options
- Insurance eligibility
- Retiree coverage options
- Medicare and your state health insurance
- Returning to state employment
- Resources



Retirement Benefit

Your retirement benefit may come from:

- Teacher Retirement System (TRS) or
- Optional Retirement Program (ORP) or
- Employees Retirement System (ERS)



ERS administers the Texas Group Benefits Program (GBP) benefits for eligible retirees.

Retirement Options



Retiring with TRS

- Call TRS at (800) 223-8778, Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. CT.
- Visit their website at **trs.texas.gov**
- TRS has their own retirement rules

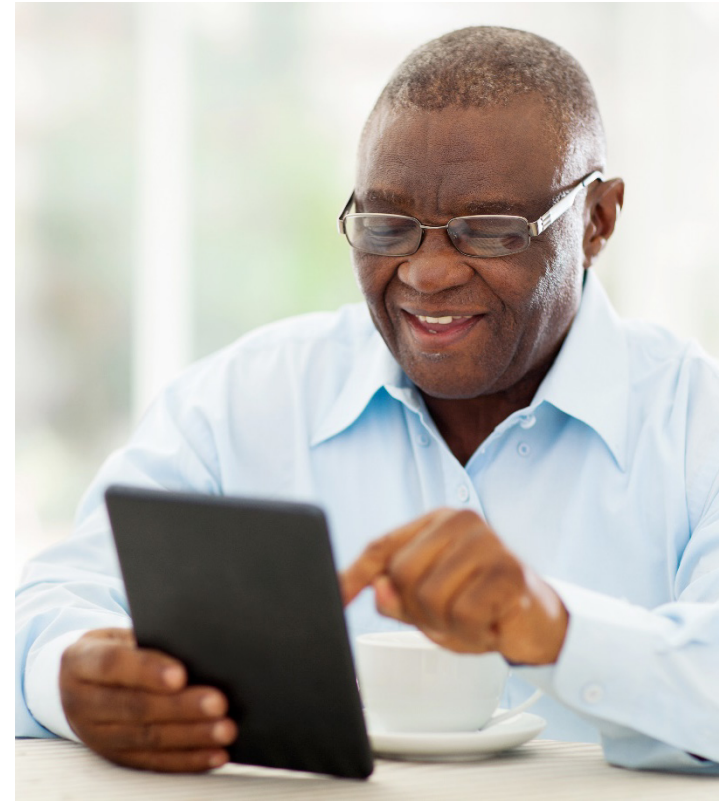


Retiring with ORP

- Contact the Human Resources office at your last ORP employer
- Find more information online
Visit **highered.texas.gov** and click on:
 - ↳ **About Us**
 - ↳ **Human Resources**
 - ↳ **Optional Retirement Program (ORP)**

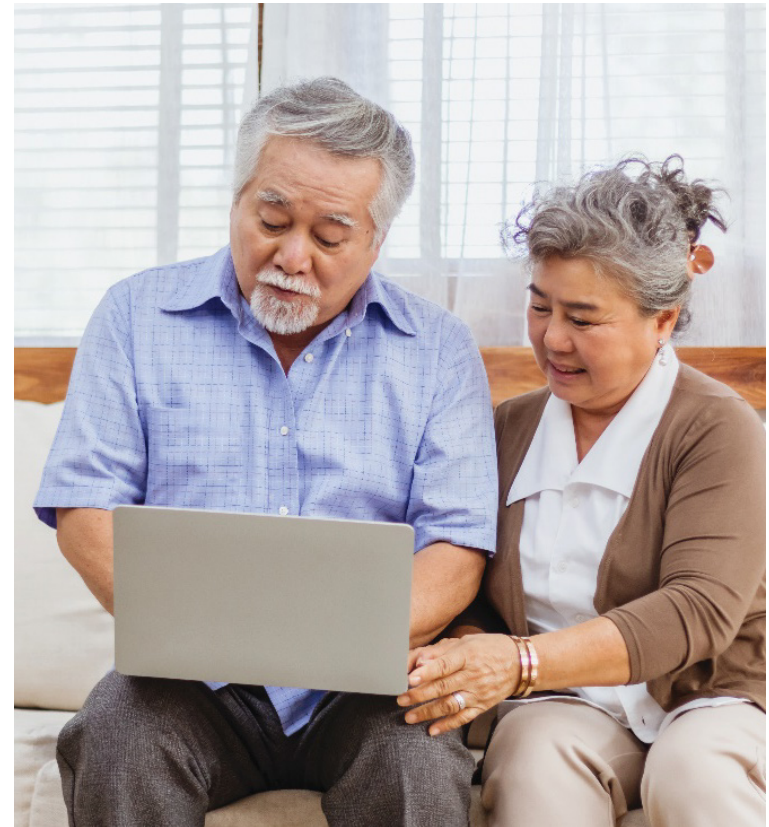
Retiring with ERS

- Call ERS one to two months before your retirement date at (877) 275-4377, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. CT.
- ERS will email your retirement documents or send via U.S. mail, if an email address is not on file.



Things you need to know

- Retirement date
- Beneficiary information
- Annuity option
- Partial lump sum option
- Federal tax withholding
- Direct deposit information
- Medicare information,
if applicable



Insurance Eligibility



Insurance Eligibility Criteria



TRS and ORP members

ORP members only

At least 10 years of eligible service credit with a GBP agency.

Last place of public employment must be with a GBP agency.

You must have an ORP account you're eligible to draw from.

Ask your Benefits Coordinator to fill out the Retiree Insurance Enrollment Form.

Retiree Insurance Premiums



Currently, if you're eligible for retiree health insurance, the state pays at least part of your premium. How much the state pays depends on:

- When you started working
- How long you worked
- If you retired from full- or part-time employment

State Premium Contributions for Retirees from Full-time Employment

100%	5 or more years of GBP participation on Sept. 1, 2014 <i>or</i> 20 years of eligible service credit
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75%	15 years to 19 years 11 months of eligible service credit
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50%	10 years to 14 years 11 months of eligible service credit
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When am I Eligible for Retiree Health Insurance?

Before age 65 – ERS Rule of 80 retirees

- Must have 10 years of eligible service credit
- Eligible for health and optional benefits when you retire

Before age 65 with at least 10 years of eligible service credit but does not meet the ERS Rule of 80

- Health insurance at age 65
- Optional coverage upon retirement date (even if retiring before age 65)

At age 65 with at least 10 years of eligible service credit

- Eligible for health and optional benefits when you retire



Your years of eligible service credit and age determine when you're eligible for retiree insurance benefits.

Health Insurance Waiting Period



Contributing members – retiring directly from active employment. You won't have a waiting period.

Non-contributing member – separating from employment before you're eligible to retire – a waiting period will apply to your health coverage.

Contact your **Benefits Coordinator** to determine if you'll have a waiting period before your health benefit begins.

Retiree Coverage Options



Coverage Options



Active Benefits	Retiree benefits
Health + \$5,000 basic term life + prescription benefits	Health + \$2,500 basic term life + prescription benefits
Dental	
Vision	
Optional Term Life: Elections 1 – 4	Optional Term Life: Elections 1 – 2; Retiree Fixed \$10,000 Optional Life
Dependent Term Life – \$5,000	Dependent Term Life – \$2,500
TexFlex – HCRA, DCRA, LFSA	TexFlex – COBRA
Disability benefits (short-term and long-term)	N/A
Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D)	

30-day window to elect or make changes to your retiree benefits

Paying Your Insurance Premiums

You have the following options:

- request to have your premiums deducted from your monthly TRS annuity check (TRS retirees only); or
- set up automatic withdrawal to have monthly premiums drafted from a bank account
- send a check or money order directly to ERS. Payments are due on the 1st of each month;

Medicare and Your State Health Insurance



- Retirees turning age 65 or eligible for Medicare due to disability - sign up for Medicare Parts A and B
- Provide ERS with your Medicare information



Your state health insurance is no longer primary once you're retired and eligible for Medicare.

Medicare and Your State Health Insurance

If you are not eligible for free Medicare Part A:

- HealthSelect Secondary as health insurance option
- Provide SSA letter to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas

HealthSelect of Texas[®]

HealthSelect of Texas[™]
Medicare 

Returning to Employment

- Contact TRS if you retired through TRS and are returning to work with a higher education institution
- If you combined TRS and ERS service when you retired under TRS, you'll have a 30 day waiting period before you can return to work for a higher education institution
- If you combined TRS and ERS service when you retired under ERS, you'll have a 90 day waiting period before you can return to work for an ERS state agency.



Benefits Options for Return-To-Work Retirees

- You can elect active employee benefits like disability insurance, TexFlex and life insurance options not available to retirees.
- You can contribute to Texa\$aver (if your college or university participates.)

TEXFLEXSM

TEXA\$AVERSM
401(k) / 457 Program

Discount Purchase Program

Treat
Yourself
to Cool
Deals



DISCOUNT
Purchase Program
administered by BENEPLACE

Ready to Save?

- Shop online for discounted prices.
- No membership fee.
- Just shop and save!

<https://ers.savings.beneplace.com/home>

Resources



Visit www.ers.texas.gov to access:
your account; events calendar; ERS publications;

Call (877) 275-4377

Monday – Friday | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. CT

Visit **www.trs.texas.gov** or 1-800-223-8778

Visit **www.ssa.gov** or 1-800-772-1213



THANK YOU!