



Teachers  
Retirement  
System of  
Georgia

# RETIRE WITH CONFIDENCE, RETIRE WITH TRS!

Providing retirement security to those who are dedicated to educating the children and adults of Georgia and helping them succeed in life.



## WHO WE ARE

TRS is dedicated to effectively managing the teachers' retirement fund in order to provide our vested members and their beneficiaries with income at retirement or upon disability or death.

With over 200,000 active members, TRS is the largest public retirement system in Georgia. TRS was established in 1943 by the Georgia General Assembly and TRS benefits are administered and paid in accordance with laws enacted by the Georgia Legislature.

## HOW WE CAN HELP YOU!

TRS offers a variety of free resources and events to help you in every stage of your career!

- New Hire: Workshops
- Mid-Career: Individual Counseling, Workshops, & Seminars
- Pre-Retirement: Individual Counseling, Workshops, & Seminars
- Post-Retirement: Seminars

You can see our upcoming events and register at [www.TRSGA.com/events](http://www.TRSGA.com/events).

## HOW TRS BENEFITS YOU!

- ☑ Lifelong benefits! You will never outlive your benefits!
- ☑ No surprises! You know exactly how much you'll receive.
- ☑ More secure than defined contribution retirement plans, like 401(k)s!
- ☑ Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs), where your benefit grows during retirement!
- ☑ Retire early with unused sick leave credit!
- ☑ Provide lifetime security for your loved ones – if you choose a survivorship option at retirement.



## LEARN MORE!

Check out our Member's Guide!  
[www.TRSGA.com](http://www.TRSGA.com)

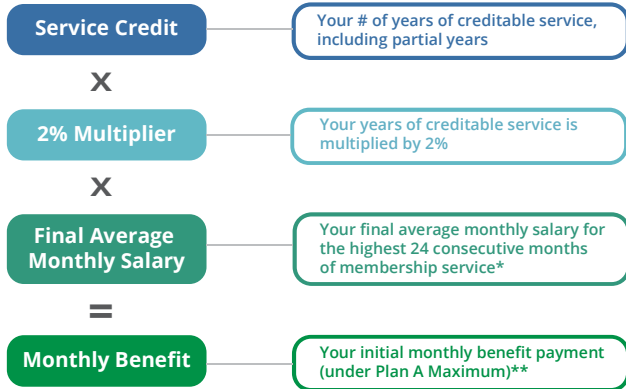
Teachers Retirement System of Georgia

Main: 404-352-6500 | Toll-Free: 800-352-0650



## UNDERSTANDING YOUR BENEFIT

Our defined benefit retirement plan relieves you of the burden of making investment decisions and assuming the associated investment risk, for example, stock market losses. TRS assumes this risk for you. Your role in growing your TRS benefit is simple – the longer you work, the larger your TRS benefit becomes, based on a percentage-of-pay formula:



\*Benefit calculation is based on the highest consecutive 24 months of earnable compensation achieved while a TRS member.

\*\* The salary used to calculate your benefit may be limited if increases in your salary are above limits set annually under Georgia law.

When you are within 6 months of retirement, you can select the payout plan that best meets the needs of you and your family. For example, TRS offers plans that maximize your monthly benefit, but do not provide any income to your survivors. For a reduced monthly benefit, you could choose plans that do leave a lifetime benefit to one or more beneficiaries.

## TAKE A CLOSER LOOK



### Vesting

You must be “vested” in order to receive a benefit, which means you must have at least 10 years of service. There are two paths you can take to get a benefit from TRS:

- 10 or more years of service AND attain age 60, or
- 30 years of service at ANY age

Including unused sick leave credit, you can accumulate up to 40 years of creditable service. Sick leave can be used to reach 30 years of service and then retire.



### Unused Sick Leave Credit

If you have at least 60 days of unused sick leave, TRS will add service credit to your years of service, which is used in the formula and increases your lifetime benefit! So, don't use your sick leave unless you need to! See our website for more details on sick leave credit.



### Cost-of-Living- Adjustments – COLAs

As long as there is inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), our retirees receive 1.5% COLAs every January and July, which provides protection against inflation. Most pension plans do not provide COLAs, so this is a very valuable part of your TRS lifetime benefit!



## HOW TO START PREPARING FOR RETIREMENT

- Activate Your TRS Account**  
Once you have been employed 2 months, please go to the TRS website and register your account.
- Designate Your Beneficiaries**  
Designate primary and secondary beneficiaries – so that your account balance is distributed as you desire. Plus, once you are vested, TRS provides a lifetime monthly benefit to your beneficiary if you die while in active service.
- Attend a Free Event**  
TRS offers multiple events to help you prepare for retirement throughout your career. To find out more, visit the TRS website.
- Start an Emergency Savings Fund**  
Consider maintaining a cash savings of at least 6 months of your salary. If you have an unexpected expense, such as car repair, you can use your emergency fund and avoid accumulating debt on a credit card.
- Join Your 403(b) or 457 Plan**  
Most teachers will need to supplement their TRS pension with additional income. A great way to accumulate that extra income is to join your employer's defined contribution plan, which could be a 401(k), 403(b), or 457 Plan. Contributions are through payroll deductions and are pre-tax, which increases your take-home pay. See your human resources representative to find out more.