# **Your Retirement Benefits**

THE PERCENT

General Municipal Employees (MERS)

What is your Retirement Benefit?

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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 plans

Contributions	Pension Plan	Defined Contribution (DC)
Employee	1%	5% or 7% (if not in Social Security)
Employee with COLA	2%	5% or 7% (if not in Social Security)
Employees with 20+ Years of Service as of 6/30/12	8.25% (1+5+2.25)	No longer participates in the plan
Employees with 20+ Years of Service as of 6/30/12 with COLA	9.25% (2+5+2.25)	No longer participates in the plan

As part of the pension settlement, if you have 20 or more years of service credit as of June 30, 2012, you 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.



What's a Schedule?

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



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 1

Active and eligible to retire with either 30 years of service OR age 58 with 10 years of service on or before 6/30/2012

## Schedule 2

• Active, but not eligible to retire as of 6/30/12 and had 5 or more years of service as of 6/30/2012

## Schedule 3

• Active as of 7/1/2012, but not eligible to retire as of 6/30/12 and had less than 5 years of service

## Schedule 4

• New hires on or after 7/1/2012



# When Can You Retire?

**1.** Retire with Full Benefits:

a. Schedule Based Retirement Date

## OR

- a. **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

\*\*\*<u>All members have their own unique retirement eligibility age</u>\*\*\*



# When Can You Retire?

## Schedule Based Retirement Date

Schedule 1	Schedule 2	Schedule 3 & Schedule 4
Currently eligible to	Social Security Normal	Social Security
retire.	Retirement Age (SSNRA)	Normal Retirement
Became eligible with 30	proportionally scaled back	Age (SSNRA) and 5
years of service at any age	based on years of service	years of contributory
OR	earned as of 6/30/12	service
Age 58 with 10 years of	• Not less than age 59	
contributing service as of 6/30/2012	• 5+ years of contributory service as of 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 6/30/12.

### 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%

Time Earned?	Accrual per Year
Years worked <b>prior</b> to June 30, 2012 (all members)	2%
Years worked <b>after</b> July 1, 2012 (all members)	1%
Years worked after July 1, 2015 (ONLY members with 20+ years of service as of June 30, 2012)	2%



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 1	3 highest consecutive years
Schedule 2 Schedule 3	5 highest consecutive years (Must be equal or greater than highest average salary as of 6/30/12.)
Schedule 4	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	\$O	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 (Only offered if you had 10 or more years of service as of 6/30/2012)	Higher benefit prior to age 62. <i>Reduced pension</i> after 62	\$O	No <b>₽ER</b>
	17		Employee System of

Receiving Your Pension Payments

- Your first pension payment will be received 2-3 months after retirement. (Payment is retroactive to date of retirement.)
- 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 Benefits

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.

System of Rhode Island



What About A Cost of Living Adjustment?

### Annual COLA and 4 Year COLA:

- The Annual COLA is suspended if your plan is under 80% funded.
- Until the plan is 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.
- Please note: Not all municipal plans offer COLA to all employees. If your plan does not offer COLA you are not eligible to receive a COLA.



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.

### 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.

### Beneficiary Designation Form

Send to ERSRI, 50 Service Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Warwick, RI 02886 before your last day.



## Application for Retirement

Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island
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#### APPLICATION FOR RETIREMENT

Please print clearly in black in	nk.
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Section 1 - Member information	
First and middle names	Last r

	First and middle names		Last name			
1		1.1		1	1	
l						
	City		State		Zip code	
	Home phone number (area code and numi	ber)	Email address			
	Date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy)	Social Se	curity number (4 last digits	only)		
	Date of retirement (mm/dd/yyyy)	Date of t	termination (mm/dd/yyyy)			

#### Section 2 - Member's signature

I, the undersigned, certify that I understand my rights and benefits as a member of the Employees Retirement System of Rhode Island. Under the penalties of perjury, I further certify that I have not been convicted or pled guilty to any crime related to my public office or public employment as defined in Rhode Island General Laws Sec 36-10.1-2.

I hereby apply to retire from the said system and understand that my retirement will become effective on the first day following my termination or the first day of the month this signed application is received in the ERSRI office, whichever is later.

Member signature	Date	of sig	gnatu	re (m	vm/da	t/yyyy	)	
Counselor signature (optional)	Date	of sig	gnatu	re (m	m/da	t/yyyy	)	

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

Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island
50 Service Avenue 2 <sup>rd</sup> Floor
Warwick, RI 02886-1021

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



## 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="http://www.ersri.org">www.ersri.org</a>.

#### RETIREMENT INFORMATION

Last day of employment Date of retirement

#### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of birth Date of employment Date of 1<sup>st</sup> contribution Marital status

#### BENEFICIARY AS PER OUR RECORDS

Name of beneficiary Date of birth of beneficiary Relationship Benefit type

Name of beneficiary Date of birth of beneficiary Relationship Benefit type

#### SERVICE

Contributing service (including refund buyback) Other purchased service Total service as of retirement date

#### SERVICE CREDIT FACTOR

Service credit factor as of retirement date

#### HIGHEST AVERAGE SALARY

Highest average salary as of retirement date

TerminationDate RetirementDate

BirthDate EmploymentDate MembershipDate MaritalStatus

FirstName LastName BirthDate Type BenefitType

FirstName LastName BirthDate Type BenefitType

Contributing service Purchased service Total service

#### Service credit factor

Salary



# Option Election Form

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#### **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 pension payable	
		To pensioner	On death of pensioner
А	SRA - Service Retirement Allowance From July 1, 2020	\$4,023.67	\$0.00
В	Option 1 - Joint & Survivor 100% From July 1, 2020	\$3,540.83	\$3,540.83
С	Option 2 - Joint & Survivor 50% From July 1, 2020	\$3,782.25	\$1,891.12
D	SRA Plus - Social Security Option * From July 1, 2020 to May 1, 2023 From May 1, 2023	\$5,852.92 \$3,594.58	\$0.00 \$0.00

\* If you choose SRA Plus – Social Security Option, your benefit will be reduced the month following your 62<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

All options are equivalent to the Service Retirement Allowance. For more information on the assumptions used, please contact the ERSRI.

I hereby request that the benefits to which I am entitled under the Plan be paid according to (indicate the letter of your choice) \_\_\_\_\_\_.

Joint and Survivor Beneficiary: If you selected a Joint and Survivor payment option please designate your beneficiary below.

First name:	MI:	Last name:	

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ SSN: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Member



## **Tax Election** Form

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Employees' Retirement	
System of Rhode Island	
HORE	

#### CERTIFICATE OF TAX WITHHOLDING PREFERENCE **OR TAX WITHHOLDING CHANGE**

#### Please print clearly in black ink.

First and middle names	Last name	
Address (street number, street name and apartme	ent number)	
Address (street number, street name and apartme	ent number)	
Address (street number, street name and apartme	ent number) State	Zip code
		Zip code

- Married Single Withholding status (check one):
- Number of exemptions claimed:

#### Section 3 - Federal tax withholding preference (check one)

- I do not wish to have federal taxes deducted from my monthly pension payment.
- I wish to have ERSRI determine the amount, if any, of federal taxes to be withheld from my monthly pension payment in accordance with the applicable tax tables using the marital status and exemptions indicated above.
- I wish to have ERSRI determine the amount, if any, of federal taxes to be withheld from my monthly pension payment in accordance with the applicable tax tables using the marital status and exemptions indicated above. I wish to have an additional \$ \_\_\_\_\_\_ withheld from each monthly pension payment in addition to the amount to be withheld on the basis of withholding status and exemption indicated above.
- I wish to have ERSRI withhold a total amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_\_ from each monthly pension payment.

#### Section 4 - RI state income tax withholding preference (check one)

- I do not wish to have Rhode Island state taxes deducted from my monthly pension payment.
- I wish to have ERSRI determine the amount, if any, of Rhode Island state taxes to be withheld from my monthly pension payment in accordance with the applicable tax tables using the marital status and exemptions indicated above.
- I wish to have ERSRI determine the amount, if any, of Rhode Island state taxes to be withheld from my monthly pension payment in accordance with the applicable tax tables using the marital status and exemptions indicated above. I wish to have an additional \$ withheld from each monthly pension payment in addition to the amount to be withheld on the basis of withholding status and exemption indicated above.

from each monthly pension payment.

I wish to have ERSRI withhold a total amount of \$



## **Direct Deposit** Form

Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island	
	REQUEST FOR DIRECT DEP
	document from your bank showing your full account number. or new direct deposit information to be effective.

Please print clearly in black ink.

Check one box: New sign-up Change to existing direct deposit account

First and middle names	Last name	
Address (street number, street name	and apartment number)	
City	State	Zip code
Home phone number (area code ana	number) Business phone number	(area code and number)
Email address	Social Security number	r (4 last diaits only)

**REQUEST FOR DIRECT DEPOSIT** 

Date of signature

Section 2 - Direct deposit information

Check o	one bo	ж:	C	hecki	ing ac	count	Sav	ings ac	count							
Name	of bar	nk or	finan	cial ir	nstitu	tion										
Bank's	routi	ng nu	imbei	r				Acco	unt nu	mber						

#### Section 3 - Member's statement and signature

I certify that I am entitled to an ERSRI retirement allowance, and authorize my payment to be sent to the financial institution named above and to be deposited in the designated account. MMDDYYYY

Member signature





#### EMPLOYER CERTIFICATION OF RETIREMENT AND FINAL WAGES

Do not submit this form more than 3 months prior to member's retirement. This form must be completed in entirety and signed by both the member and employer.

For additional information, see instructions at the end.

Please print clearly in black ink.

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Section 1 - Member information

First and middle names	Last name	
Address (street number, street name and a	partment number)	
City	State	Zip code
Home phone number (area code and numb	ber) Business phone numbe	r (area code and number)
Date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy)	Social Security number (4 last digits	: only)

#### Section 2 - Employment information

Name of the employer	Position of the member
M M D D Y Y Y Y Employment start date	M M D D Y Y Y Y Position start date

#### Section 3 - Termination information

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Employer Certification of Retirement and Final Wages – Page 1



#### EMPLOYER CERTIFICATION OF RETIREMENT AND FINAL WAGES

FERSRI

Employees' Retirement

System of Rhode Island

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

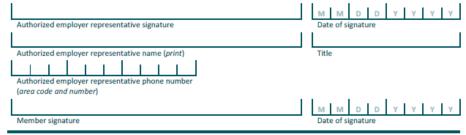
	Year	Retro payments (if applicable to years listed)	Effective date of retro	Amount of retro per pay period	10 month employee	12 month employee
L L						
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#### Section 7 – Disclaimer and signatures

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 (ESRR) 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 ESRR 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.



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: <u>ersri@ersri.org</u> | Web site: <u>www.ersri.org</u>

Employer Certification of Retirement and Final Wages – Page 3

## Beneficiary Designation Form

		BE	NEFICIARY D	ESIGNATIO
Complete all app		rm; incomplete and unsign nation, see instructions at t		d.
Please print clearly in black ink.				
Section 1 – Member inforn	nation			
First and middle names		Last name		
			Member	Retiree
Date of birth (mm/dd/vvvv)		v number (4 last diaits only	Mambarchin et	atus (check only one

To name an OAP beneficiary, you must be an active member with at least ten years of contributory service on or before June 30, 2012 or at least five years of contributory service on or after July 1, 2012.

#### Person as a beneficiary

First name	MI	Last name	
Address (street number, street name and	apartment number)		
City	State	Zip code	Telephone (area code and number)
Relationship	Social Security number		Date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy)
Primary Contingent	OAP		Refund Death benefit
Beneficiary type (check only one)	OAP election (if vested)		Benefit type
First name	MI	Last name	I
		Last name	
First name Address (street number, street name and		Last name	]
	apartment number)	Last name Zip code	Telephone (area code and number)
Address (street number, street name and	apartment number)		Telephone (area code and number)
Address (street number, street name and	apartment number)		Telephone (area code and number) Date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy)
Address (street number, street name and City	apartment number)		

Beneficiary Designation (04/2016)



## Part-time Anti Spiking Rule

### What is Pension Spiking?

• Pension spiking is the inappropriate enhancement of one's salary immediately prior to retirement in order to artificially inflate one's pension benefit.

### When does the Anti-Spiking Rule apply?

If more than one half (1/2) of your total years of service consist of years during which you devoted less than thirty (30) business hours per week, but your highest average salary consists of three (3) or more years during which you devoted more than thirty (30) business hours per week.

### How Does the Anti-Spiking Rule Impact Your Pension Calculation?

- Your highest average salary will be calculated using one of the below methodologies
  - The average of your 10 highest consecutive years of salary.
  - If your highest average salary is under \$35,000 (indexed to inflation) your highest average salary will be the greater of your 10 year or schedule based highest average salary calculation.
- In no event will your highest average salary be less than it would have been as of June 30, 2012.

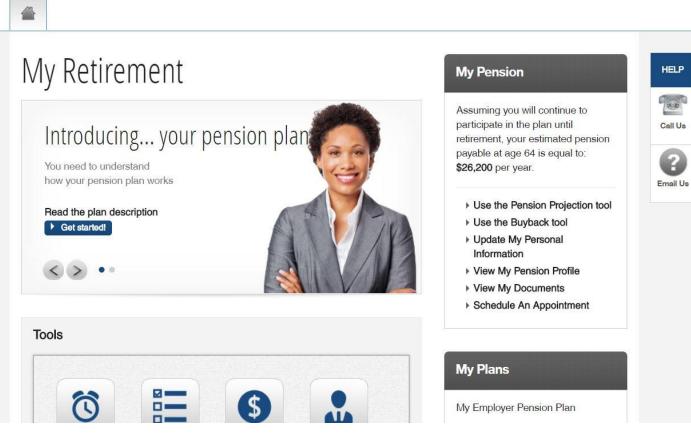


## **ERSRI** Online Registration

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.



Log out

Hi John Doe

Search

Q

HELP



**Employees' Retirement** 

System of Rhode Island

How to Run a Benefit Estimate Online

### **PENSION PROJECTION TOOL**

#### WHAT THIS IS

This tool allows you to estimate your pension benefits from your pension plan at different ages.

#### VIEW DEMO

#### WHAT IF ...

My future annual earnings increase is 🥝 🛛 🛛 🛛 🛛 🛛 🛛 🗤

O Age	62		Date	01-01-2042	
		V			L
O Age	64	×	Date	01-01-2045	

### CALCULATE





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## 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	Calendar Year
Classroom Instructor, Academic Advisor, or Coach at a State School Or College	N/A	\$18,000	Calendar Year
Drivers Ed Teacher	N/A	\$15,000	Calendar Year
MERS Employee	75 (or 150 half days)	N/A	Calendar Year
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 reemploy separation/te	ment may begin no earlier		
* Unlimited except for those who previou o	<b>₽</b> ER		

Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island

## 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.

### Your Post Retirement Employment Responsibilities:

- 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 <u>www.ersri.org</u>. 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.



Important Contact Information Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island (ERSRI)

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

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

For inquiries regarding retiree health benefits contact your employer.



General MERS