YOUR RETIREMENT BENEFITS

General Municipal Employees (MERS)



WHAT IS YOUR RETIREMENT BENEFIT?

Members of the Employee's 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**).



WHAT IS A DEFINED BENEFIT OR PENSION 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 CONTRIBUTION (DC) 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 you living expenses.



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% <i>(if not in Social Security)</i>	
Employees with 20+ Years of Service as of 6/30/12	8.25% <i>(1+5+2.25)</i>	No longer participates in the plan.	
Employees with 20+ Years of Service as of 6/30/12 with COLA	9.25% <i>(2+5+2.25)</i>	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 no 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 15 YEARS,

BUT LESS THAN 20 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

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.
 - Hired before or after June 30, 2012?
 - Eligible to retire as of June 30, 2012?
 - How many years of service as of June 30, 2012?
- 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?

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 6/30/2012 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 6/30/2012 and had less than 5 years of service.

SCHEDULE 4

New hires on or after 7/1/2012

NOTE: All years must be years of *contributing service* to be counted towards retirement elgibility.



WHEN CAN YOU RETIRE?

- Retire with full benefits:
 - Schedule based on retirement date OR
 - Rule of 95: Your age and service equal 95 (only applies to those whose retirement date is later than age 62)
- Retire early with reduced benefits
 - Transition Rule 1
 - Transition Rule 2

All members have their own unique retirement eligibility age



WHEN CAN YOU RETIRE?

Schedule Based Retirement Date

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



WHEN CAN YOU RETIRE?

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 6/30/2012
- 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 prior to June 30, 2012 (all members)	2%
Years worked after 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.

Schedule	Highest Average Salary
Schedule 1	3 highest consecutive years.
Schedule 2 Schedule 3	5 highest consecutive years. <i>(Must be equal or greater than highest average salary as of 6/30/12)</i>
Schedule 4	5 highest consecutive years.



YOUR PENSION PAYMENT OPTIONS

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 52. <i>Reduced pension after 62.</i>	\$O	No

- 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.



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.



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
 - Membres 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.

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

Application for Retirement

- Send to ERSRI, 50 Service Ave, 2nd Floor, Warwick, RI 02886 before your last day.
- Option Election Form
 - Send to ERSRI, 50 Service Ave, 2nd Floor, Warwick, RI 02886 before your last day.
- Tax Withholding Form
 - Send to ERSRI, 50 Service Ave, 2nd Floor, Warwick, RI 02886 before your last day.
- Direct Deposit Form
 - Send to ERSRI, 50 Service Ave, 2nd Floor, Warwick, RI 02886 before your last day.

- Employer Certification of Retirement and Final Wages
 - Send to your payroll/human resourced department within 3 months prior to terminating employment

Beneficiary Designation Form

• Send to ERSRI, 50 Service Ave, 2nd Floor, Warwick, RI 02886 before your last day.

DIVORCED? Please be sure to provide your final court entered divorce judgement and property settlement agreement with your retirement paperwork.



APPLICATION FOR RETIREMENT

 Click the image to view and download a PDF of the application for retirement from <u>www.ersri.org</u>.



APPLICATION FOR RETIREMENT

First and middle names	Last name	
City	State	Zip code
Home phone number (area code and nu Date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy)	mber) Email address	
Date of retirement (mm/dd/yyyy)	Date of termination (mm/dd/yyyy)]
Section 2 - Member's signatu	'e	
sland. Under the penalties of perjury, I f	nd my rights and benefits as a member of th urther certify that I have not been convicted fined in Rhode Island General Laws Sec 36-1	or pled guilty to any crime related to my
	tem and understand that my retirement will inth this signed application is received in the	become effective on the first day following ERSRI office, whichever is later.





MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

• Your membership information is provided in your new member kit.

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

RETIREMENT INFORMATION

Last day of employment Date of retirement

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of birth Date of employment Date of 1st 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

Convise andit feater on of ratirement date

Convine aredit feator



BirthDate Type BenefitType

FirstName LastName

TerminationDate

RetirementDate

EmploymentDate

MembershipDate

MaritalStatus

BirthDate

FirstName LastName BirthDate Type BenefitType

Contributing service Purchased service Total service

OPTION ELECTION FORM

• The option election form is provided in your new member kit.

PLAN NAME - SCHEDULE

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 pensi	on payable
			On death
		To pensioner	of pensioner
A	SRA - Service Retirement Allowance		
Α.			
	From July 1, 2020	\$4,023.67	\$0.0
в	Option 1 - Joint & Survivor 100%		
	From July 1, 2020	\$3,540.83	\$3,540.8
_			
С	Option 2 - Joint & Survivor 50%		
	From July 1, 2020	\$3,782.25	\$1,891.1
D	SRA Plus - Social Security Option *		
_	From July 1, 2020 to May 1, 2023	\$5,852.92	\$0.0
	From May 1, 2023	\$3,594,58	\$0.0
	you choose SRA Plus – Social Security Option, your benefit will be redu ^a birthday.	iced the month foli	owing your
	options are equivalent to the Service Retirement Allowance. For more informa ase contact the ERSRI.	ation on the assumpt	llons used,
	reby request that the benefits to which I am entitled under the Plan be paid a ir choice)	ccording to (indicate	the letter of

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

M

First name:

Last name



TAX ELECTION FORM

 Click the image to view and download a PDF of the tax election form from <u>www.ersri.org</u>.

	CERTIFICATE OF TAX WITHHOLDING PREFERENC
	OR TAX WITHHOLDING CHANG
Pleas	e print clearly in black ink.
Sec	ion 1 – Member information
Firs	and middle names Last name
Add	ress (street number, street name and apartment number)
City	State Zip code
City	
Hor	ne phone number (area code and number) Social Security number (4 last digits only)
Sec	ion 2 – Federal tax withholding status and exemptions
With	
	nolding status (<i>check one</i>): Aarried Single
Num	holding status (<i>check one</i>): Arried Single
Num	tion 3 – Federal tax withholding preference (check one)
Num Sec	holding status (<i>check one</i>): Married Single ber of exemptions claimed: ion 3 – Federal tax withholding preference (<i>check one</i>) do not wish to have federal taxes deducted from my monthly pension payment.
Num	tion 3 – Federal tax withholding preference (check one)
Sect	Including status (<i>check one</i>): Married Single Si
Sec Sec	and the status (<i>check one</i>): Arrived Single Sin
Sec	holding status (<i>check one</i>): Married Single ber of exemptions claimed: Married Single fion 3 – Federal tax withholding preference (<i>check one</i>) I do not wish to have federal taxes deducted from my monthly pension payment. 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. Wish to have ERSRI determine the amount, if any, of federal taxes to be withheld from my monthly pension payment in
Seci	holding status (<i>check one</i>): Married Single ber of exemptions claimed: Married Single ber of exemptions claimed: Married Single do not wish to have federal taxes deducted from my monthly pension payment. 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. 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. 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 \$
Sect	including status (check one): Married Single beer of exemptions claimed:
Sect	Image: Single beer of exemptions claimed: ition 3 - Federal tax withholding preference (check one) Ido not wish to have federal taxes deducted from my monthly pension payment. Iwish 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. Iwish 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. Iwish to have ERSRI determine the amount, if any, of federal taxes to be withheld from my monthly pension payment in additional \$
Sect	anolding status (check one): Married Single beer of exemptions claimed:
Sect	and a status (check one): Married Single beer of exemptions claimed:
Sect	anolding status (check one): Married Single beer of exemptions claimed:



DIRECT DEPOSIT FORM

 Click the image to view and download a PDF of the direct deposit form from www.ersri.org.

Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island
REQUEST FOR DIRECT DEPOSIT
Please enclose a voided check or a copy of any other document from your bank showing your full account number. Allow up to 2 full months for any changes 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
Section 1 – Member information
First and middle names Last name
Address (street number, street name and apartment number)
City State Zip code
Home phone number (area code and number) Business phone number (area code and number)
Email address Social Security number (4 last digits only)
Section 2 – Direct deposit information
Check one box: Checking account Savings account
Name of bank or financial institution
Bank's routing number Account number
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.



EMPLOYER CERTIFICATION OF RETIREMENT AND FINAL WAGES-PAGE 1

 Click the image to view and download a PDF of the full employer certification of retirement and final wages from www.ersri.org.

					RTIFICATION
	Do not submit this form m This form must be completed in				
		oformation, see ins	-		Muyer.
Please print clearly in	black ink.				
Section 1 – Mer	ber information				
First and middle na	ies	Las	st name		
Address (street nun	ber, street name and apartment	number)			
City	Sta	te			Zip code
Home phone numb	r (area code and number)	Business pho	one number (area	code and nu	nber}
Date of birth (mm/	désaul Cariald	Security number (4	t last diaite and à		
		ecurity number (4	nast aigits only)		
Section 2 – Emp	loyment information				
Name of the emplo	er	Por	sition of the memb	ber	
ммор			Y I Y I Y		
Employment start of	ite Position	n start date			



EMPLOYER CERTIFICATION OF RETIREMENT AND FINAL WAGES-PAGE 3

 Click the image to view and download a PDF of the full employer certification of retirement and final wages from www.ersri.org.



EMPLOYER CERTIFICATION OF RETIREMENT AND FINAL WAGES

Section 6 - Salary certification (continued)

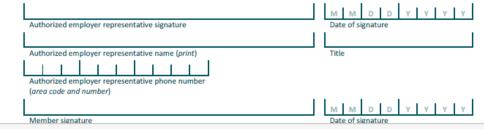
	Year	Retro payments (if applicable to years listed)	Effective date of retro	Amount of retro per pay period	10 month employee	12 month employee
L L						
×						
S T						

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 (ERSRI) 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 ERSRI 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.

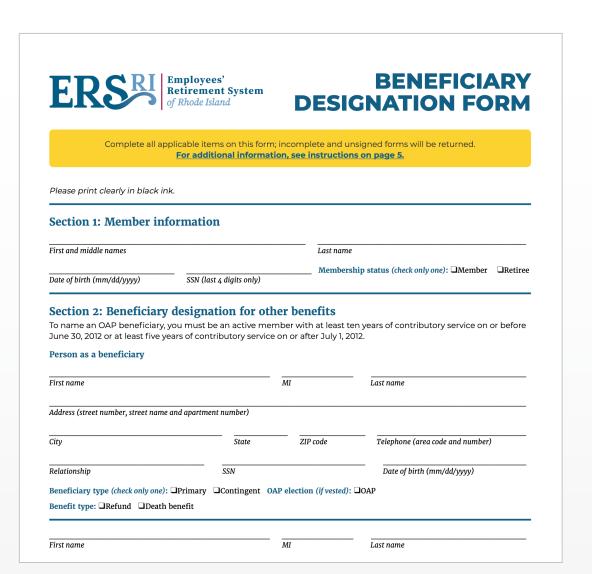
I understand that any person who makes a false statement or shall falsify or permit to be falsified any record to the retirement system in an attempt to defraud the system may be subject to criminal prosecution, and with that understanding, I certify that all information on this form is true and correct.





BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION FORM

 Click the image to view and download a PDF of the Beneficiary Designation Form from <u>www.ersri.org</u>.





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.

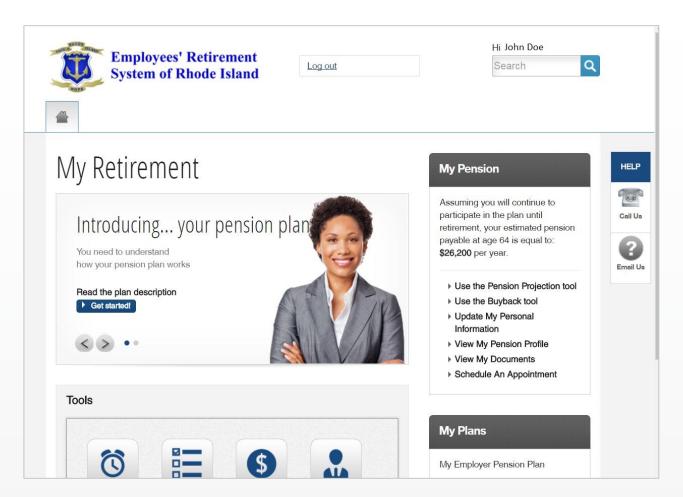
• How does the anti-spiking rule impact your pension calculation?

- 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

- Visit <u>www.ersri.org</u> to register your My Retirement account.
- The self registration process will ask you for identifying personal information and give you a login ID.
- Be sure to write down your login ID and password in a a safe place.





HOW TO RUN A BENEFIT ESTIMATE ONLINE

PENSION	PROJE		TOOL		Administrator tools \checkmark Recent estimates Yearly amounts \checkmark Printable statement		
WHAT THIS IS This tool allows you to estimate your pension benefits from your pension plan at different ages.				WHAT I KNOW Date of birth Earned salary	January 1, 1908 \$50,000 SEE /	Total years of service ② 11.57 ALL PERSONAL AND DESIGNATED JOINT & SURVIVOR INFORMATION »	
WHAT IF My future annual earnings increase is 0% 0% 0%				\$24,000	YOUR ESTIMATED INCOME AT RETIREMENT ² Employer Pension Plan		
Age 62 Age 64 Age 64 Age 64	DateDateDate	01-01-2042 01-01-2045 01-01-2045		\$20,000 \$16,000 \$12,000 \$8,000			
CALCULATE				\$4,000 \$0	Age 62 SHOW DETAILS »	Age 64 SHOW DETAILS »	



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 reemployment may begin no earlier than 45 days after separation/termination from employment *Unlimited except for those who previously worked and earned service credit as an elected official or board member.



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

Address: 50 Service Avenue, 2nd floor, Warwick, RI 02886

Phone: (401) 462–7600 | Email: ersri@ersri.org | Website: www.ersri.org

TIAA – DC PLAN COORDINATOR

FEDERAL SOCIAL SECURITY

The Gateway Center 15 Park Row West, Suite 102 Providence, RI 02903

(800) 897-1026

www.tiaa.org/ri

Providence Office (877) 402–0808

www.ssa.gov

For inquiries regarding retiree health benefits, contact your employer

