# FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



We serve those who serve Florida



## **GENERAL FAQS**

#### Who administers the Florida Retirement System (FRS)?

The Division of Retirement administers the FRS Pension Plan. The State Board of Administration administers the FRS Investment Plan.

# How do I become a Florida Retirement System (FRS) Pension Plan member?

Membership in the FRS is mandatory for employees who begin employment with an FRS employer on or after December 1, 1970, in a regularly established position. Employees should receive plan choice information by mail within 90 days from their hire date. It will provide information on how to enroll in the plan of your choice (Investment Plan or Pension Plan).

#### May I change plans?

FRS members have one opportunity to use a "second election" to change their plan. Contact the MyFRS Financial Guidance Line (1-866-446-9377) for more information about changing plans.

### Where may I view my years of creditable service?

FRS Pension Plan members may view their creditable service at any time by logging into their FRS Online account (<u>frs.fl.gov</u>) and navigating to the Service History page.

# I am ready to retire. How do I find information about retirement?

Consult the <u>"Ready. Set. Retire."</u> guide for information on retirement, including on how to apply.

### How is my retirement benefit calculated?

The formula used for calculating your FRS Pension Plan benefit is in the <u>Member Handbook</u>. The factors that impact your benefit calculation are the total years of creditable service you earn, the percentage value for the years you earn based on your membership class, and an average of the five or eight highest fiscal years of compensation earned during your covered employment.



FRS Online

Ready. Set. Retire Guide



Member Handbook

### When can I be reemployed?

As of July 1, in accordance with section 121.091(9)(d), Florida Statutes, retirees can be reemployed with an FRS employer and recieve both compensation and retirement benefits after meeting the six-calendar month termination requirement. This change eliminates the "suspension of benefits" period previously applied during calendar months 7-12 of retirement.

# DEFERRED RETIREMENT OPTION PROGRAM (DROP) FAQS

# What is the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) and how do I qualify?

The DROP is a voluntary retirement program that is available only to FRS Pension Plan members who qualify for normal retirement. See the DROP Guide for additional information.



DROP Guide

#### When may I enter the DROP?

You become eligible to enter the DROP when you are vested and reach normal retirement. Normal retirement is dependent on several factors such as membership class, the date you first became a member of the FRS, and your age. Contact the Division of Retirement for additional information.

#### How do I apply for the DROP?

You can apply for DROP using the <u>DROP Retirement Forms</u> packet, which has detailed instructions for everything required to apply for the DROP. Your employer must approve your completed forms. You may apply up to six months before reaching your normal retirement date or DROP deferral date. It is your responsibility to submit your completed application to the Division of Retirement.



DROP Forms Packet

### How long can I participate in the DROP?

Generally, DROP participation is up to 96 months; however, refer to the <u>DROP Guide</u> for information on eligible extensions.

# How do I adjust my DROP end date to take advantage of the maximum months allowed under statute?

If you wish to update your DROP participation to any date up to the maximum allowable period, you may be eligible to do so with the authorization of your employer and the Division of Retirement. Complete a revised Form DP-ELE and submit it to the Division of Retirement before your current DROP end date.

### **RESOURCES**

#### What publications does the Division of Retirement offer?

The Division of Retirement has publications including, newsletters, guides, annual reports, and other helpful resources on the Publications page of FRS.MyFlorida.com



**FRS Publications** 

#### What is FRS Online and who is it for?

FRS Online (<u>frs.fl.gov</u>) is a secure website for all Florida Retirement System (FRS) Pension Plan members. Pension Plan members and Investment Plan members receiving disability retirement or a health insurance subsidy can use FRS Online to find account information or make changes.

# Does the Division of Retirement administer the Florida Retirement System (FRS) Investment Plan?

No, the State Board of Administration administers the Investment Plan. For more information, contact MyFRS (myfrs.com/ContactUs.htm)

#### What is the difference between the FRS Online and MyFRS websites?

FRS Online (<u>frs.fl.gov</u>) is a secure website for all members of the Florida Retirement System (FRS) Pension Plan and any other FRS members receiving benefits administered by the Division of Retirement.

The MyFRS website (<u>myfrs.com</u>) and the MyFRS Financial Guidance Program provide educational resources to all FRS members. MyFRS is sponsored by the State Board of Administration who administers the FRS Investment Plan.





frs.fl.gov/#/faqs

### **CONTACT US**

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