

Presenters

Matt Kesser

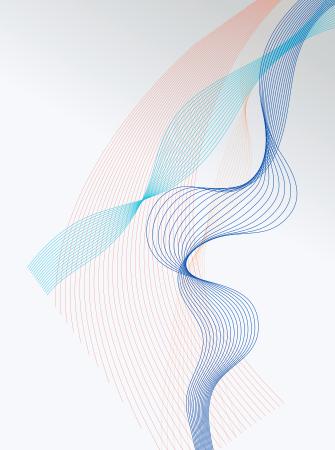
Communications Manager

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Jillian Thomas

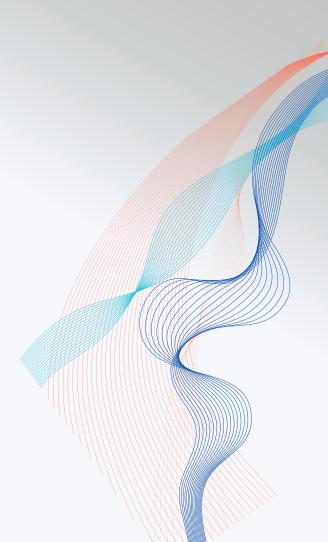
Retirement Education & Communications Specialist

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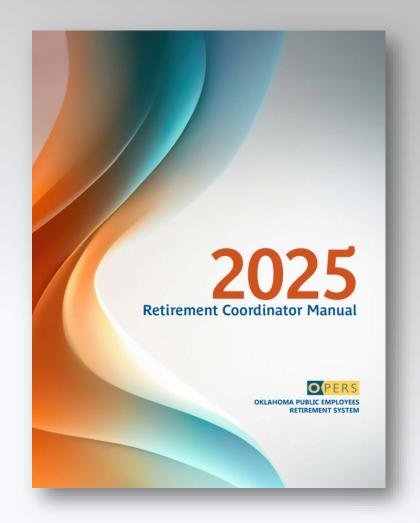
Presentation Overview

- Updates
- OPERS Basics
- Role of a Coordinator
- Additional Information and Resources



Updated Manual – Coming Soon

- We are still working on revisions
- PDF available on Employer's section of the OPERS website.



www.opers.ok.gov/employers

Staffing Changes

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 53007 | Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73152-3007 Physical Address: 5400 North Grand Boulevard, Suite 400 | Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112-5625 (800) 733-9008 toll-free | (405) 888-6737 OKC area | (405) 848-5946 fax www.opers.ok.gov | Contact@opers.ok.gov

Defined	
Renefit Plans	

	ons, member contributions, terminations, or active member deaths		
Thy Tran	858-6738	ttran@opers.ok.gov	
Ferdinand Blay-Mockey	858-6724	fblay-Mockey@opers.ok.gov	
Alice Hunt	858-6755	ahunt@opers.ok.gov	
Sara Lackner	858-6772	slackner@opers.ok.gov	
Lloyd Thompson	858-6778	Ithompson@opers ok gov	

858-6722

858,6780

Retired | Questions for members currently going through the retire ember Services | Michelle McRee | 858-6757

Tamikia Washington

Cameron Gregg	858-6747	cgregg@opers.ok.gov
Kent Cordray	858-6741	kcordray@opers.ok.gov
Leslie Jeffcoat	858-6730	ljeffcoat@opers.ok.gov
Carli Keena-Shelton	858-6777	ckeena-shelton@opers.ok.gov
Mendi Keller	858-6770	mkeller@opers.ok.gov

Defined Contribution Plans

Questions regulating 50	onersave or ruthjinaer participation	
Marc Pierce	858-6708	mpierce@opers.ok.gov
Robin Wano	858-6779	rwano@opers.ok.gov
Brittani Gordon	858-6739	bgordon@opers.ok.gov
Mary Janousek	858-6796	mjanousek@opers.ok.gov

Payroll Reporting

| Questions regarding payroll contribution reporting and submissions | Nancy Boysen 858-6728

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twashington@opers.ok.gov

Communications Department

 Questions regarding publications, member education, forms or the OPERS website

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 858-6794

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 Ava Doyle
 858-6729

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Other OPERS

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 ontacts
 Sarah Ashmore
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 Justin Kilgore
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Employer Websi

General questions about the employer website can be directed to our main contact infor If you need to reset your password email us at help@opers.on.spiceworks.com OPERS Contact Information on Page 3 of the Manual.

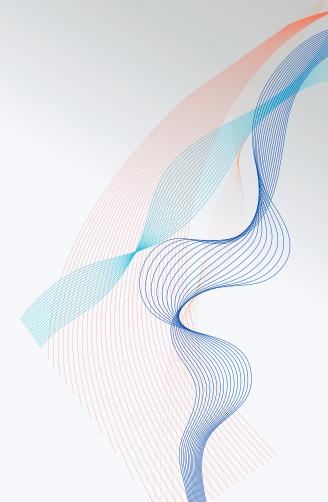
Don't know who to ask?

The OPERS Contact Center can help!

(405) 858-6737

New - Annual Coordinator Verification

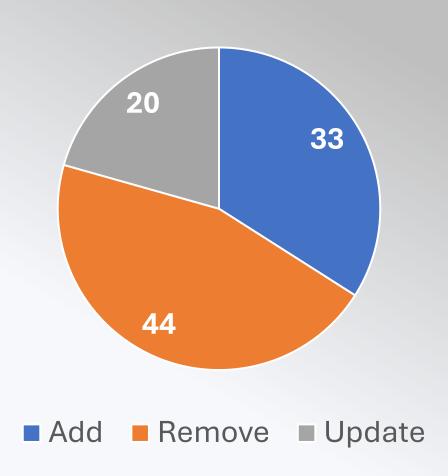
- This year county/local government employers only
- Planned for June/July
- OPERS sends an email to the main coordinator with the coordinator list we have on record
- You must either verify or submit updates.
- Automated the process to make updates



Coordinator Verification Stats

172 County/Local Agencies

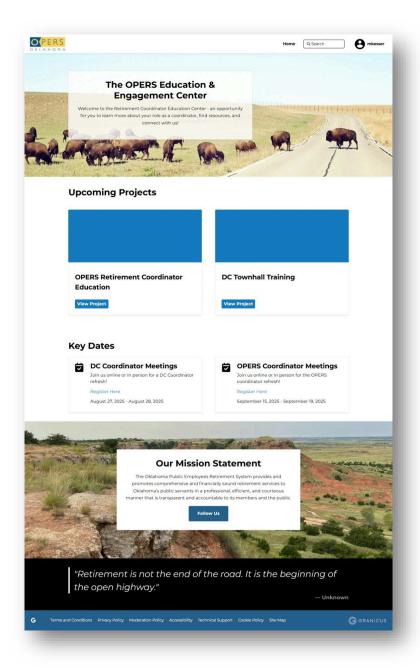
- 168 (98%), Responses
- 109 Agencies confirmed no changes needed



Engage Learning Center for Coordinators

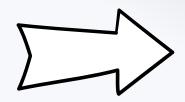
engage.opers.ok.gov

Coming Soon!



New Email From Addresses

@public.govdelivery.com



@email.opers.ok.gov

Update your spam/junk mail filters so you don't miss a message.



Legislation Updates 2025

House Bill 1458

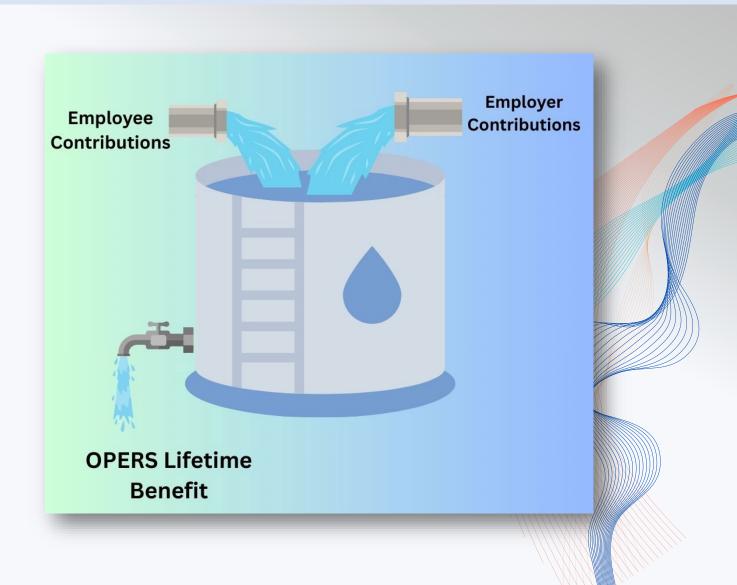
- Modifies the process a beneficiary uses to have the \$5,000 death benefit paid to a funeral home instead of themselves.
- Clarifies that this transfer is a qualified disclaimer of benefits rather than an assignment of benefits.
- Removes the tax liability from the beneficiary.
- OPERS must receive form to disclaim benefit within 9-months of the member's death.



OPERS Basics

What is OPERS?

- Defined benefit plan
- Benefit is dependent on a formula



Benefit Formula

Final Average Salary

Service Credit

x Computation Factor (2%)

Lifetime Annual Benefit

\$30,000

25

.02

\$15,000

\$1,250 monthly

Encourage employees within 2 years of eligibility to request a Benefit Calculation opers.ok.gov/forms

Final Average Salary

- Out of the last 10 years
 - Before July 1, 2013 highest **three** years
 - On or after July 1, 2013 highest five years
- Includes
 - ✓ Gross, full-time base pay
 - ✓ Longevities
- Does Not Include
 - × Overtime,
 - × Reimbursements (travel, clothes, insurance, etc)
 - × Tips



* Final Average Salary may be different if you are an elected official

Service Credit

- Participating service begins first of the month following hire date
- Other service you may receive credit for include:
 - Purchases service
 - Prior service
 - Bonus years
 - Military service
 - Unused sick leave
- Before November 1, 2012 rounded to the nearest full year
- On or after November 1, 2012 full years and months (no rounding)



Unused Sick Leave

Hours of Unused Sick Leave	Months of OPERS Service Credit
0 – 159	0
160 – 319	1
320 – 479	2
480 – 639	3
640 – 799	4
800 – 959	5
960 (maximum)	6



Step-Up

- Increases computation factor from 2.0% to 2.5%
- Additional contribution required (currently 2.91%, subject to change)
- Only full years of participation count toward the 2.5% calculation
- Irrevocable election to participate
- Not available to
 - Hazardous duty members; or
 - Elected official first elected or appointed prior to November 1, 2011
- More information available in Step-Up brochure and on the **OPFRS** website







Your OPERS benefit is a valuable part of your future retirement income. One way to get more from your OPERS benefit is through Step-Up. Whether you are early in your career or have many years of service, you can step up your contribution and receive a greater lifetime benefit when you retire. For information on the benefit formula and retirement eligibility review the EssentialOPERS at www.opers.ok.gov/publications.

What Is Step-Up and How Does It Work?

When you retire, OPERS calculates your benefit using a formula:











With Step-Up, you pay more in contributions each paycheck. In return, your benefit calculation will use a higher computation factor of 2.5%.

> Step-Up 2.0% > 2.5%

The higher 2.5% Step-Up rate only applies to full years (12 months) of participating service earned after starting Step-Up

- > For example, four years and 10 months in Step-Up will result in a calculation of four years at the Step-Up rate.
- All other service, including partial yeas of participation in Step-Up is calculated at the standard 2% rate.

How Much Will Step-Up Cost Me?

- An Additional 2.91% of your compensation.
- To calculate your full contribution with Step-Up, add 2.91% to your current contribution rate
- > Contact your retirement coordinator or payroll clerk for your current contribution rate.
- Regular employee contribution rates and/or the Step-Up rate could change in the future.

What Are the Requirements and Eligibility?

Most active OPERS members may enroll in Step-Up.2

- Except: Hazardous duty members and elected officials first elected or appointed prior to November 1, 2011.
- Once enrolled, you are always in the program.
- You cannot stop or pause the additional Step-Up
- You will continue to pay into Step-Up even if you change positions or return to work in the OPERS system after a break in service, retiring or taking a withdrawal.

How Do I Enroll in Step-Up?

- Complete and sign a Step-Up Election Form.
- Return the form to your retirement coordinator.
- > You can enroll as a new employee or at any time while you are an active participating member.
- Step-Up starts the first payroll period after your employer accepts the form.

Is Step-Up Right for Me?

Like all financial decisions, choosing to Step-Up may impact your current and retirement lifestyles. You should consider these factors before enrolling:

- Once begun, you cannot stop Step-Up contributions.
- How long do you plan to remain an active member?
- Can you afford a decrease in take-home pay due to higher employee contributions?
- What is your current financial standing and tax status?
- > How long do you and/or your survivor plan to receive a pension from OPERS based on age and life expectancy?
- You cannot withdraw contributions until you end employment.
- Other choices for tax-sheltered saving such as SoonerSave or an IRA.

Four Possible Paths

Retire

• start receiving a lifetime benefit



Vest retirement

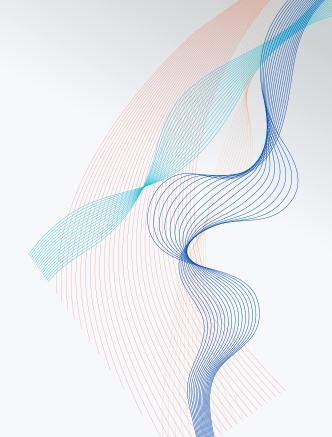
 receive a lifetime benefit at a future date

Withdraw contributions

- One-time payment
- cancel service

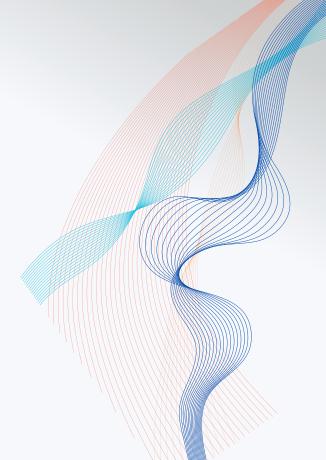
Leave contributions in OPERS

 pick back up when you return to a participating employer



What does 'being vested' mean?

- You have enough service to receive a future benefit -Eight full years
- Member doesn't need to act right away.
- Member needs to keep address updated.
- Will still need to complete retirement application when eligible.



Normal Retirement Eligibility

Participating before Nov. 1, 2011

• Age 62 with 6 years of fulltime equivalent employment

OR

- 80 points (age + service credit) if you initially became a member before July 1, 1992
- 90 points (age + service credit) if you initially became a member on or after July 1, 1992

Participating after Nov. 1, 2011

Age 65 with 6 years of full-time equivalent employment

OR

90 points (age + service credit) and at least 60 years of age

Retirement Timeline

At least 2 years before

• Request a benefit calculation

3 to 6 months before

Contact retirement coordinator

60 days before

• Retirement Application deadline

45 day before

Acknowledgement

15 days before

Preliminary statement

Retirement Day

55 days after

• Final benefit statement

60 days after

First two deposits

Retirement Options

Maximum: No Survivor Benefits

• Option A: Reduced Benefit + ½ Survivor Annuity

Option B: Reduced Benefit + 100% Survivor Annuity

• Option C: Reduced Benefit with 10-year term certain

Retired Member Return to Work

- Non-OPERS employer
- No effect on your OPERS benefit



- OPERS-participating employers
- No pre-arranged employment agreements per state law and IRS Code
- Same employer from which you retired
 - One-year waiting period, or must waive benefits
- Different OPERS employer
 - One month waiting period, or your retirement will be canceled
 - Subject to earning limitations.

Earning Limitations

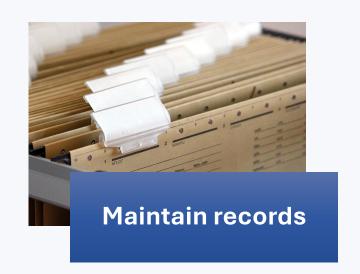
- Benefit subject to Social Security earnings limitation
- Current limits: opers.ok.gov/returning-to-work

Social Security Administration (SSA) Earnings Limits			
Will not reach SSA Full Retirement Age in 2025	Up to the point you reach SSA Full Retirement Age in 2025	Once you reach the SSA Full Retirement Age	
\$23,400	\$62,160	No Limit	



Retirement Coordinator Responsibilities

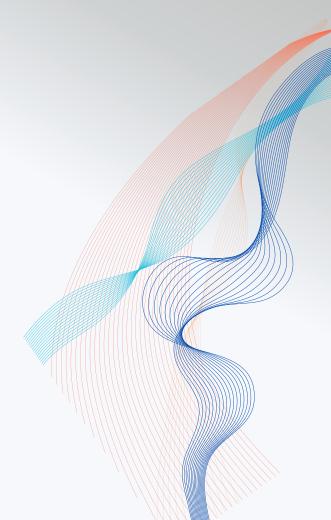
Roles of the Retirement Coordinator













Maintain Records

Keep Employee Records

- ✓ Hours
- ✓ Salary
- ✓ Unused sick leave balances upon separation



Where are your old records?

Importance of Enrollment

- Integrity of service and salary data –
- Members cannot withdraw, vest or retire without enrolling.
- Member will not receive an annual statement or newsletter.
- Ensure contributions are paid on time
- Delinquent service is costly and avoidable.



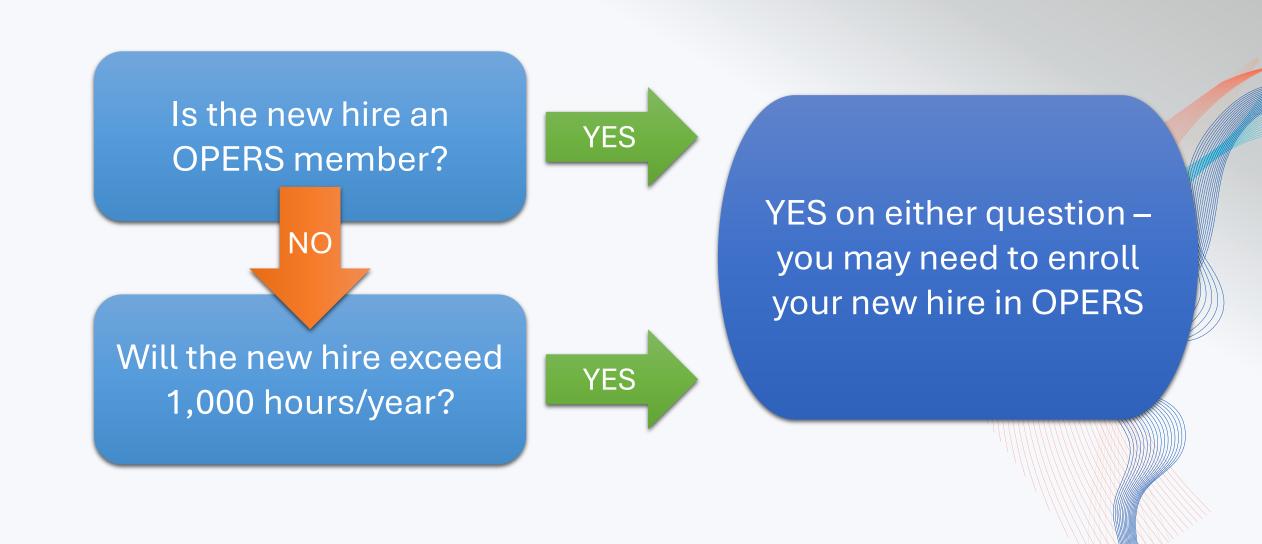
Initial Membership Requirements

- Position is permanent, not seasonal or temporary.
- Position requires at least 1,000 hours work per year (rolling 12 months after first day of employment).
- Salary must be equal to or greater than minimum wage.

State employees who first become employed by a participating employer on or after November 1, 2015, and have no prior participation in OPERS will participate in the mandatory Pathfinder defined contribution plan.



Part-time, Temporary or Seasonal



Part-time, Temporary or Seasonal

How to know if they are an OPERS Member







Scope Creep

Part-time, Temporary or Seasonal

- Best Practice Document employment conditions, beginning and end dates.
- Document when an employee's position changes to full-time or in scope.
- Enroll eligible employees.





for initial eligibility

April 80 hours

May 85 hours

June 65 hours

July 95 hours

August 85 hours

September 85 hours

October 80 hours

November 60 hours

December 80 hours

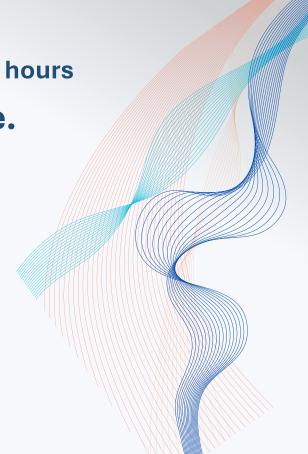
January 60 hours

February 85 hours

March 85 hours

April through March: 945 total hours

Not OPERS eligible.



for initial eligibility

April	80 h	ours
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May 85 hours

June 65 hours

July 95 hours

August 85 hours

September 85 hours

October 80 hours

November 60 hours

December 80 hours

January 60 hours

February 85 hours

March 85 hours

April 95 hours

May through April: 960 total hours

Not OPERS eligible.

for initial eligibility

May 85 hours

June 65 hours

July 95 hours

August 85 hours

September 85 hours

October 80 hours

November 60 hours

December 80 hours

January 60 hours

February 85 hours

March 85 hours

April 95 hours

May 95 hours

June through May: 970 total hours

Not OPERS eligible.

for initial eligibility

April	80 hours	January	60 hours

May 85 hours February 85 hours

June 65 hours March 85 hours

July 95 hours April 95 hours

August 85 hours May 95 hours

September 85 hours June 95 hours

October 80 hours

November 60 hours **July through June: 1,000 total hours**

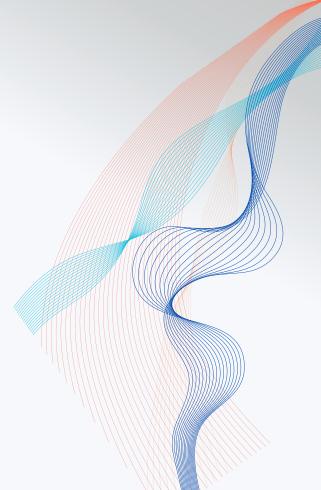
December 80 hours OPERS eligible

Employee now meets requirements for initial eligibility

Delinquent service will be owed for those twelve months

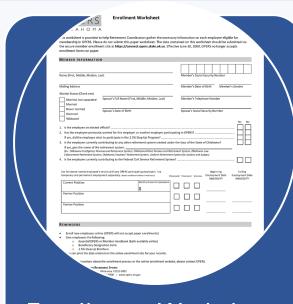
Probationary Periods

- "Probationary" periods are still reportable
 - Periods of "initial employment" cannot be exempted from OPERS contributions.
 - Delinquent service is costly and avoidable.





Enrollment Process



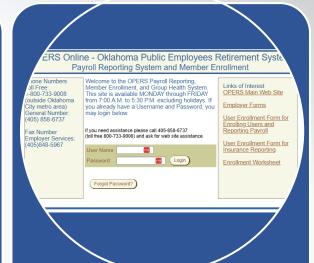
Enrollment Worksheet

- Collect/verify information
- Keep in your records



Call OPERS/Workday Verification

- Verify Eligibility
- Verify when to start contributions
- Verify Step-Up participation



OPERS Online

• connect.opers.state.ok. us



Provide Documents

- Beneficiary form
- Essential OPERS
- Step-Up brochure

New Hire Retirement Eligibility in Workday

- Check the 'OPERS/PATHFINDER' box
- Leave all drop downs set to 'Not Eligible'
- OPERS will verify eligibility
- Once OPERS completes processing, you will receive a Workday notification to let you know:
 - The plan your employee should be enrolled,
 - When to start contributions; and
 - If Step-Up contributions should be withheld.



Hiring Retired OPERS Members

Waiting periods

Must continue participation and pay contributions

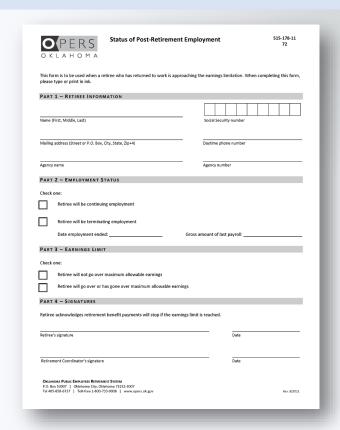
Member must decide to continue or waive benefits



Retired Member Returning to Work Forms

O PERS OKLAHOMA	Post-Retireme	ent Employme	nt Elect	ion				511	5-117E 57	3-19
It is a direct violation of IRS provis arrangement to re-hire that emplo Service regulations.	ions and state law for a oyee after retirement. T	n employee and em he requirements ar	ployer to e e set forth	nter ir in 74 (to a p).S. § §	re-reti 114 an	ireme d cert	nt emplo ain Inter	yment nal Re	ven
PART 1 - RETIREE INFORM	MATION			_	_	_	_		_	_
Name (First, Middle, Last)			_ L	cial Sec		L				
Name (Hrst, Middle, Last)			50	DIAN SEC	arity nu	imper				
Mailing address (Street or Rural Route	r, City, State, Zip+4)									
Phone number	Personal	email address								
OPERS employer from which you retir	ned.		- Em	ployer f		Origina	I retin	ment dat		_
PART 2 - CERTIFICATION				, my e		J. Ingilia				
Employer name			Em	ployer I		arliest	date	of current	emplo	yme
Retirement Coordinator's signature		Date	Ret	iree's o	urrent	ositio	n			
PART 3 - RETIREE'S CHOI	CE									
are required on the lines provided	underneath your choic	s, or waive receiving se. See the reverse s	your mon ide of this	thly bi	nefits or furti	Your her ex	signa plana	ture and tion.	the da	ate
	underneath your choic	e. See the reverse s	ide of this	form f	or furti	her ex	plana	ture and tion.	the da	ate
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Post Retirement Employment Election



Status of Post-Retirement Employment



Retired Member Returning to Work Forms

O PERS O K L A H O M A	etirement Employment	Election	515-117B-19 57
It is a direct violation of IRS provisions and stat arrangement to re-hire that employee after re Service regulations.			
PART 1 - RETIREE INFORMATION			
Name (First, Middle, Last)		Social Security	number
Mailing address (Street or Rural Route, City, State, 2	Eip+4)		
Phone number	Personal email address		
OPERS employer from which you retired		Employer #	Original retirement date
PART 2 - CERTIFICATION BY RETIRE	MENT COORDINATOR		
acknowledge retirees returning to work must part-time employment. Employee and employ	pay contributions on all compens er contributions must begin on th	ation earned, incl e first day of emp	luding seasonal, temporary and loyment.
Employer name		Employer #	Earliest date of current employment
Retirement Coordinator's signature	Date	Retiree's curre	nt position
PART 3 - RETIREE'S CHOICE Your new employment may not begin before of choose to either continue receiving your mont	one full month of retirement or yo	ur retirement will our monthly benef	be cancelled. Below you must
PART 3 - RETIREE'S CHOICE Your new employment may not begin before o	one full month of retirement or yo	ur retirement will our monthly benef	be cancelled. Below you must
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PART 3 - RETIREE'S CHOICE Your new employment may not begin before of choose to either continue receiving your mont are required on the lines provided underneath Choice 1: I choose to By signing below, I understand I may not en for a period of at least one year following m my younger than the Social Security Normal exceed the allowed amount for my age, and with January, I will begin to receive my benef earnings for the calendar year. I understand 12 months of full-time equivalent service increased benefits are based upon the act. employer during my post-retirement employ. Retiree's signature Choice 2: I choose to wal You are not eligible to waive your be. By signing below, I understand I have walved participating employer. I understand I will in sais. I understand a shall in which your be sais. I understand a shall in which your a service credit. I know I can retire again, understand I know I can retire again, under equivalent participation with a particip	one full month of retirement or yo hly benefits, or waive receiving ye your choice. See the reverse side CHOOSE ONLY ONE BOX continue receiving my retirement ter into any employment agreem y last date on payroll and contin. Retirement age, my monthly retis sagain. Just as before, the benefit sagain. Just as before, the benefit sagain lust as before, the them each month! work for a participat rstand my benefit will be increase (2,076 hours) as of the end of the all compensation! earned and ad ment. we (stop receiving) my retiremen menfits if you elected to receive the M the receipt of my monthly retirem tor receive any monthly retirem tor teceive any monthly retirem of receive any somethy retirem of receive any monthly retirem of receive any last show if my	ur retirement will ur monthly beneit of this form for fix to benefits while I: ent with the OPE et a receive benefits while I: ent with the OPE et a receive benefit ent entered benefits in go OPES employed and effective January of September 1 world benefits with the OPE entered benefits while I benefits while I benefits while I benefits during the OPES employed benefits during the Denefits during the Denefits during the Denefits during the Denefits during the OPES entered benefits during the Denefits during the Denefit	be cancelled. Below you must fits. Your signature and the date of the control of

Post Retirement Employment Election

- When retired member returns to work
- Receive benefits vs waive benefits

Retired Member Returning to Work Forms

Status of Post-Retirement Employment

- When member approaches earning limits
- Continue working or terminate employment to continue benefit

	CLAHOMA		
	orm is to be used when a retiree who has returned to work is e type or print in ink.	approaching the earnings limitation. Whe	n completing this form,
PART	1 - RETIREE INFORMATION		
Name ((First, Middle, Last)	Social Security number	
Mailing	g address (Street or P.O. Box, City, State, Zip+4)	Daytime phone number	
Agency	y name	Agency number	
ART	2 - EMPLOYMENT STATUS		
Check	one:		
	Retiree will be continuing employment		
	Retiree will be terminating employment		
	Date employment ended:	Gross amount of last payroll:	
PART	3 – EARNINGS LIMIT		
	one:		
Check			
Check	Retiree will not go over maximum allowable earnings		
Check	Retiree will not go over maximum allowable earnings Retiree will go over or has gone over maximum allowable	earnings	
		earnings	
PART	Retiree will go over or has gone over maximum allowable		
PART	Retiree will go over or has gone over maximum allowable 4 - SIGNATURES		_
PART	Retiree will go over or has gone over maximum allowable 4 - SIGNATURES		
PART	Retiree will go over or has gone over maximum allowable 4 — SIGNATURES e acknowledges retirement benefit payments will stop if the	earnings limit is reached.	
PART	Retiree will go over or has gone over maximum allowable 4 — SIGNATURES e acknowledges retirement benefit payments will stop if the	earnings limit is reached.	
PART Retired	Retiree will go over or has gone over maximum allowable 4 — SIGNATURES e acknowledges retirement benefit payments will stop if the e's signature	earnings limit is reached. Date	
Retiree Retiree	Retiree will go over or has gone over maximum allowable 4 — SIGNATURES e acknowledges retirement benefit payments will stop if the e's signature	earnings limit is reached. Date	

Essential OPERS



EssentialOPERS

STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

The Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) is a defined benefit retirement plan qualified under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. Participation in OPERS is mandatory for eligible state and local government employees. OPERS provides you a lifetime retirement benefit when you meet the eligibility requirements described below.

You participate in OPERS by contributing a portion of your salary each pay period. Your employer also contributes on your behalf. The amount of your contributions does not determine the amount of the benefit OPERS promises you. Your benefits are determined by a formula which includes your salary and years of credited service. The paid contributions are invested, under the direction of the OPERS Board of Trustees, to provide lifetime retirement benefits to eligible members.

This handout is an overview describing OPERS plan provisions as of July 1, 2020. It is not a plan document and does not create any type of binding obligation, contract or promise to pay benefits. OPERS reserves the right to correct any errors contained herein to comply with federal or state statutes. For more information, refer to the member handbook available online at www.opersok.gov.

Membership and Participation

Participation in OPERS begins on the first day of the month immediately following the beginning date of your employment, provided that all of the following apply!:

Your position is **permanent**, not seasonal, or temporary; and,
 Your position requires at least 1,000 hours of work per year; and

3. Your salary is equal to or greater than the minimum wage.

Contributions

Current contribution rates are 3.5% for state employees and 16.5% for state agencies.

Local government employers choose the rate at which the organization and employee will contribute for a total of 20%. For more details on the contribution rates of a participating local government organization, see your Retirement Coordinator.

Vesting

Vesting means you have accumulated enough service credit to entitle you to a lifetime monthly retirement benefit in the future. You must have eight years' of credited service (including six full years of full-time-equivalent employment') to be eligible to vest your OPERS benefit.

Eligibility for Normal Retirement Benefits

If you became a member of OPERS before November 1, 2011:

- Age 62 You can begin receiving full, unreduced retirement benefits when you are at least age 62 with six full years of full-time-equivalent employments or
- 80 Points You can begin receiving full, unreduced retirement benefits when the sum of your age and years of service equals 80 if you became a member before July 1, 1992; or
- 90 Points You can begin receiving full, unreduced retirement benefits when the sum of your age and years of service equals 90 if you became a member on or after July 1, 1992.

If you became a member of OPERS on or after November 1, 2011:

- Age 65 You can begin receiving full, unreduced retirement benefits when you are at least age 65 with six full years of full-time-equivalent employment, or
- 90 Points You can begin receiving full, unreduced retirement benefits when you are at least 60 years of age and the sum of your age and years of service equals 90.

Eligibility for Early Retirement Benefits

If you became a member of OPERS before November 1, 2011:

 You can begin receiving reduced retirement benefits once you have reached age 55 and have at least 10 years² of participating service.

If you became a member of OPERS on or after November 1, 2011:

 You can begin receiving reduced retirement benefits once you have reached age 60 and have at least 10 years² of participating service.

If you choose early retirement, you will receive a **permanent** actuarial reduction in your benefit based on your age at retirement.

- Plan provisions
- Separate versions for:
 - State/local Government Employees,
 - Hazardous Duty,
 - Elected Officials, and
 - URSJJ

Step-up

- Contribution is an extra 2.91%
- On full years of participation in Step-up
- Not Eligible:
 - Contributing at the 8% Hazardous Duty rate
 - First elected or appointed prior to November 1, 2011





Your OPERS benefit is a valuable part of your future retirement income. One way to get more from your OPERS benefit is through Step-Up. Whether you are early in your career or have many years of service, you can step up your contribution and receive a greater lifetime benefit when you retire. For information on the benefit formula and retirement eligibility review the EssentialOPERS at www.opers.ok.gov/publications.

What Is Step-Up and How Does It Work?

When you retire. OPERS calculates your benefit using a formula:



(The formula is different for elected officials and hazardous duty members.)

With Step-Up, you pay more in contributions each paycheck. In return, your benefit calculation will use a higher computation factor of 2.5%.



The higher 2.5% Step-Up rate only applies to full years (12 months) of participating service earned after starting Step-Up.

- months) of participating service earned after starting Step-U

 For example, four years and 10 months in Step-Up will
 result in a calculation of four years at the Step-Up rate.
- All other service, including partial yeas of participation in Step-Up, is calculated at the standard 2% rate.¹

How Much Will Step-Up Cost Me?

- An Additional 2.91% of your compensation.
- To calculate your full contribution with Step-Up, add 2.91% to your current contribution rate.
- Contact your retirement coordinator or payroll clerk for your current contribution rate.
- Regular employee contribution rates and/or the Step-Up rate could change in the future.

What Are the Requirements and Eligibility?

Most active OPERS members may enroll in Step-Up.2

- Except: Hazardous duty members and elected officials first elected or appointed prior to November 1, 2011.
- Once enrolled, you are always in the program
- You cannot stop or pause the additional Step-Up contribution.
- You will continue to pay into Step-Up even if you change positions or return to work in the OPERS system after a break in service, retiring or taking a withdrawal.

How Do I Enroll in Step-Up?

- Complete and sign a Step-Up Election Form.
- Return the form to your retirement coordinator.
- You can enroll as a new employee or at any time while you are an active participating member.
- Step-Up starts the first payroll period after your employer accepts the form.

Is Step-Up Right for Me?

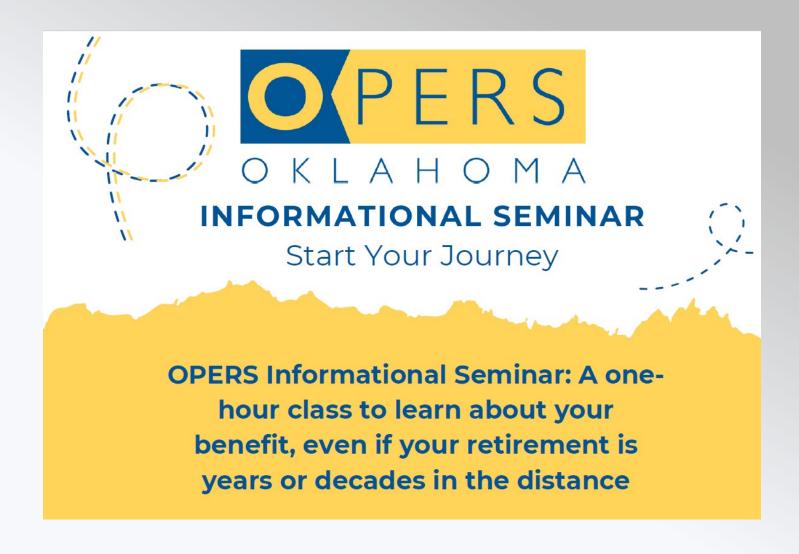
Like all financial decisions, choosing to Step-Up may impact your current and retirement lifestyles. You should consider these factors before enrolling:

- Once begun, you cannot stop Step-Up contributions.
- How long do you plan to remain an active member?
- Can you afford a decrease in take-home pay due to higher employee contributions?
- What is your current financial standing and tax status?
- How long do you and/or your survivor plan to receive a pension from OPERS based on age and life expectancy?
- You cannot withdraw contributions until you end employment.
- Other choices for tax-sheltered saving such as SoonerSave or an IRA.

Beneficiary Form

- Member must name one primary and one contingent
- Send form to OPERS by mail
- Form is part of the WorkDay Process for State agencies.

PERS	Active or Vested Memb	er Dea	ith Ben							515-116AV-14 04
is form allows you to designate a the event of your death before re curity number for an individual of ture by completing a new <i>Benefi</i> curn the original form to OPERS	etirement. It is important or taxpayer identification n ciary Designation – Active	to inclu umber	de all o (TIN) fo	f the in r an ins	format stitutio	tion re in. Yo	equesti u may	ed below change y	, includ our ber	ing a Social reficiaries in the
RT 1 - MEMBER INFORM	ATION									
									Marita	Married, but separated
ne (First, Middle, Last)		Social S	ecurity n	ımber					status	Never married
iling address (Street or P.O. Box, City, St	ate, Zip+4)				Dayt	ime tel	ephone	number	-	Divorced Widowed
ART 2 -PRIMARY BENEFIC	IARY DESIGNATION									
Full legal name of person(s), trust		State 7ir	+4			etionsh		Date of b	oirth	Social Security
or institution	1.00.000,000,000,000	Address, City, State, Zip+4 Relationship to member		er.			number (or TIN)			
									+	
					\vdash				+	
					_				_	
RT 3 -CONTINGENT BEN	EFICIARY DESIGNATIO	N - W	ill only	receive	e benet	fits if a	all prin	ary bene	ficiarie	s are deceased.
Full legal name of person(s), trust or institution	Address, City,	State, Zip	+4			ationsh		Date of t	oirth	Social Security number (or TIN)
										,
Mark here if you need to	designate additional base	dialasia.	- 44				٧		htain a	a Additional
	age from OPERS at www.c								DLaili ai	1 Additional
RT 4 - SIGNATURE										
this form, I have made my bene poloyees Retirement System. I h		nd und	erstand	that th	is forn	n supe	ersede	and rev	okes all	prior
signations and will become erre										
nature				_	Dat	to.				



Next date: Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2025 opers.ok.gov/opers-seminar-schedule

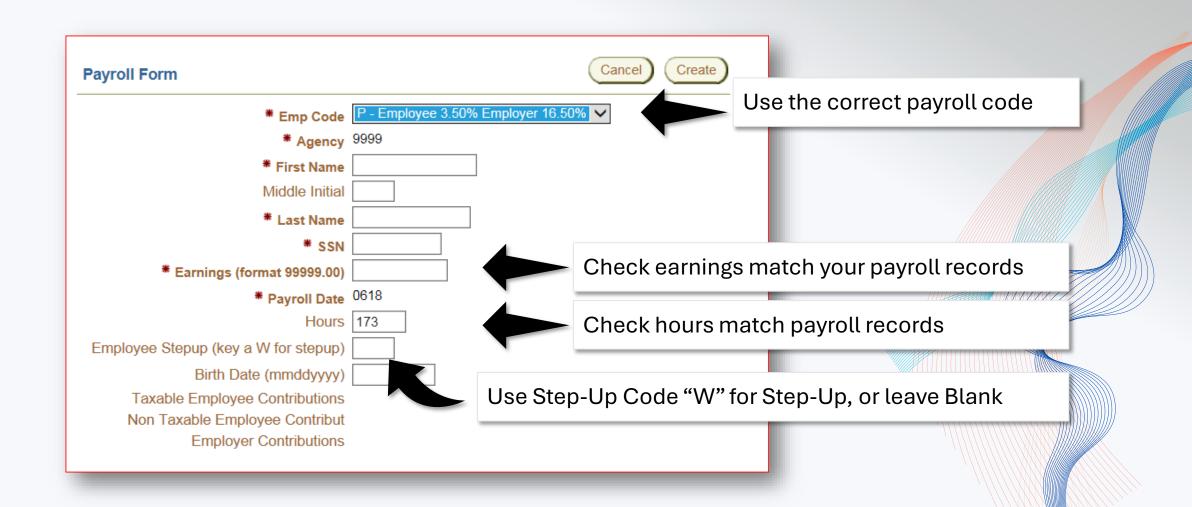


Payroll Reporting Reporting and Data Integrity

- Verify hours and salary are correct for each member.
- Do not copy and paste without checking the hours.
- OPERS may not be able to process a member's retirement until errors are resolved.

connect.opers.state.ok. us

Processing Payroll - Regular Payroll



Lock your records

- Remember to lock your records when you have finished payroll reporting.
- Making changes without locking will cause the totals in our system to not match the certificate.

Need help or make a mistake? Call Nancy

(405) 858-6728



Member name changes

- Name changes occur through the reporting of payroll.
- Marriage license or divorce decree (first page and signatures) – provide copies to OPERS.

Forms Commonly Requested

Do you need to update your information or request something from OPERS? The most frequently requested forms are provided for you below to download and complete. If you have trouble accessing these files, you may need to update the free Adobe® Reader available on the <u>Adobe</u> <u>Website</u>.

We are excited to offer several of our most common forms as an **Online Form**. These forms will open in a new window to be completed online saving you a stamp and paper. Your signature will be verified by email. The form will not be submitted to OPERS until you have verified your signature. <u>Contact us</u> if you need a paper version or have trouble completing the form.

SERVICE, BENEFIT AND INFORMATION

Benefit and Service Calculations (515-135A-21)

Online Form: Complete this form to request a benefit calculation, accounting of service credit, or withdrawal payback. Use the Withdrawal Payback Calculator to estimate the cost before completing this form.

Application for Military Service (515-167-22)

Use the <u>Military Service Purchase Calculator</u> to estimate the cost of purchasing your military servicer before completing the application.

Online Form: If you want retirement service credit for military

UPDATE MY INFORMATION

OPERS Change of Address Form (515-160-20)

Online Form: Complete this form to update your contact information. This form will also update your SoonerSave account, if applicable

OPERS Change of Name Form (515-160N-22)

Online Form: Complete this form to update your name if you are a retired, vested or withdrawing member. Active members (employed with an OPERS employer) need to complete a name change through their employer's payroll office.

Member address changes

Two options:

- Employer website https://connect.opers.state.ok.us
- Change of Address form

Employees updating their address in Workday does not automatically update their OPERS record.

Forms Commonly Requested

Do you need to update your information or request something from OPERS? The most frequently requested forms are provided for you below to download and complete. If you have trouble accessing these files, you may need to update the free Adobe® Reader available on the <u>Adobe</u> Website.

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Online Form: Complete this form to update your contact information. This form will also update your SoonerSave account policable.

OPERS Change of Name Form (515-160N-22)

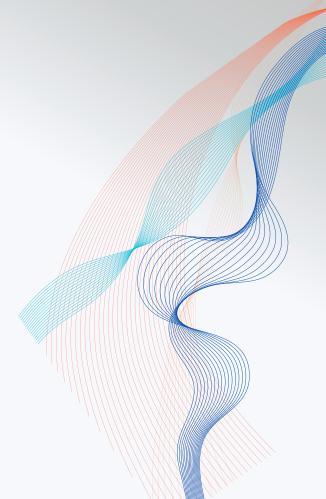
Online Form: Complete this form to update your name if you are a retired, vested or withdrawing member. Active members (employed with an OPERS employer) need to complete a name change through their employer's payroll office.

Personal Email Submission or Change

Contribution Rates

State agencies

Employee: 3.5% Employer: 16.5%



Contribution rate mix

County and local government employers

- What is your contribution rate?
 - 20% total between employee and employer
- Local employer
 - Able to change the contribution mix by resolution
 - Pre-tax vs Post-tax
 - Resolution must be submitted before June 30th to be in effect July 1st

Code	Employee	Employer	Total
Р	3.50%	16.50%	20.00%
Т	4.00%	16.00%	20.00%
N	4.50%	15.50%	20.00%
L	5.00%	15.00%	20.00%
I	5.50%	14.50%	20.00%
U	6.00%	14.00%	20.00%
Н	6.50%	13.50%	20.00%
G	7.00%	13.00%	20.00%
F	7.50%	12.50%	20.00%
Z	8.00%	12.00%	20.00%
С	8.50%	11.50%	20.00%

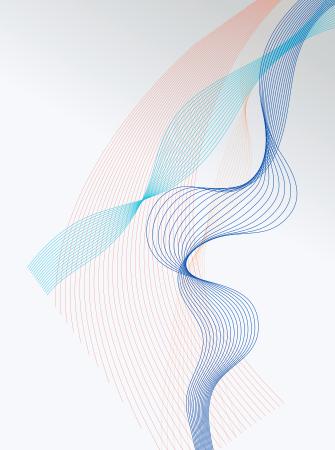
OPERS > Employers > Additional Resources

Hazardous Duty Contribution Rate

• First 20 years of participating service: contribute at the hazardous duty rate:

Employee: 8% Employer: 16.5%

• After 20 years of participating service: contribute at the non-hazardous duty rate.



Contribution Rates – Elected Officials

	Option	Employee	Employer	Total
Before Nov. 1, 2011	Low	4.5%	16.5%	21.0%
Before Nov. 1, 2011	High	10.0%	16.5%	26.5%
On or after Nov. 1, 2011		3.5%	16.5%	20.0%

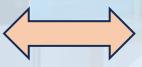
2.5% Step-Up – Irrevocable election available only to regular members and newly elected officials. Election increases employee contribution rate by 2.91% with a corresponding computation factor (multiplier) of 2.5%.



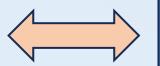
Providing Information

OPERS is happy to share information and advice with Retirement Coordinators





Retirement Coordinators



Members

Throughout career

- Pass along update from OPERS
- Reminders about seminars
- Reminders about Step-Up



Essentials of Leaving Employment

- What are your options when leaving employment?
 - Retire
 - Vested
 - Leave contributions with OPERS
 - Withdraw







When you leave employment, you will need to make a decision about your OPERS benefit. You can choose one of four paths depending on your years of credited service. This handout provides an overview of your options. For more information visit www.opers.ok.gov/feaving or scan the OR code.

RETIRE

Start a Lifetime Benefit

If you have met certain eligibility requirements, you may be able to start receiving your monthly lifetime benefit. Age and service criteria for retirement are based on how you participate with OPERS and when you began participation.

➤ Get started by reviewing the retirement process at www.opers.ok.gov/retirement-process. You will want to begin planning early. Your retirement application must be completed and submitted at least 60 days before your retirement date.

VEST

Claim a Future Lifetime Benefit

Vesting means you have enough service to earn a future retirement benefit. To vest you must have at least eight years of credited service including six full years of full-time-equivalent employment. After vesting you will receive a lifetime benefit once you reach the age requirement.

Ask your Retirement Coordinator for an Application for Vested Benefits. If you have already separated from employment, you can complete the application online at www.opers.ok.gov/forms. OPERS will send you a calculation of your vested benefit along with your date(s) of first alignibility.

KEEP YOUR INFORMATION UPDATED

Once you retire or leave employment, it is important to let OPERS know when you move or change contact informatior This helps us send you important news about your benefits. Make updates at www.opers.ok.gov/forms.

LEAVE CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE PLAN

Potential to Continue Earning a Lifetime Benefit

Even if you do not have enough service to retire or vest, you can leave your contributions in the OPERS plan. Should you return to work with an OPERS participating employer, you will continue adding to your existing service toward a future lifetime benefit. You will remain under the rules in place at the time of your original employment.

➤ No action needed to leave your contributions in the Plan.
If you do not return to employment under OPERS, you must
withdraw your contributions at age 72.

WITHDRAW

Take a One-Time Lump Sum

You can take a withdrawal and receive all your employee contributions into OPERS less applicable taxes and penalities. No Interest or increased value is pald on employee contributions. The employer contributions always stay in OPERS

- No lifetime benefit and service canceled.
- You cannot return to work for any OPERS employer for four months after your termination.
- At the earliest, payment may be made in the fifth month after separation.
- ➤ Contact OPERS after you have left employment for a Withdrawal Packet. The packet contains instructions, information and the forms needed to process your withdrawal. OPERS will only mail packets to the name and address we have on file.

Often, receiving a lifetime retirement benefit has a greater value than a lump sum withdrawal.

This handout is intended as an informational tool only. It is not a plan document and does not create any type of binding obligation, contract or promise to pay benefits OPERS reserves the right to correct any errors contained herein to comply with federal or state statutes.

This publication, printed by the Office of Management and Enterprise Services, is issued by the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System as authorized by the Executive Director. One thousand (1,000) copies have been printed at a cost of \$460.00. An electronic version of this publication has been deposited with the Publication Cleantripolause of the Oklahoma Depositionent of Ultrainer Beyleted 06/2023.

Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System PO. Box 53007 • Oklahoma City, OK 73152-3007 1-800-733-9008 • www.opers.ok.gov

Separation Information

- Complete for any employee who is not immediately retiring
- Captures
 - Last date physically on the job
 - Last date on payroll
 - Separation date
 - Hours of unused sick leave
- Online form through Adobe Sign





Separation Information

PART 2 - END OF EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

For most employees, the three dates below will be the same. The dates will be different if the employee ended their employment on paid leave, unpaid leave, disability insurance or FMLA.

Last Date Physically on the Job is the last day an employee physically performed their job at work. This can never be after the last date on payroll and termination date. This date is important for a member to qualify for disability retirement.

Last Date on Payroll is the employee's last paid day including paid leave. This is the last day an employee worked or used leave, not the day they receive their paycheck. This date is important to calculate service credit for retirement.

Separation Date is usually the last date on payroll, but not always. Separation date can never be before last date on payroll. The separation date can come after the last date on payroll when using unpaid leave, disability insurance or FMLA. This date is important if the member wants to take a withdrawal in the future.

Members can use up to a maximum 960 hours of unused sick leave toward service credit for retirement. Unused sick leave can only be banked if the member is eligible to receive a future benefit.

Last date physically on the job

Last date on payroll

Separation date

Hours of unused sick leave

Your Role at Retirement

- Encourage your employees to
 - attend an OPERS Pre-Retirement seminar
 - request a benefit calculation.
- Direct member to complete digital application:
 - opers.ok.gov/retire
- Preliminary Employer Certification
- Final Employer Certification
 - Online submission within 10 days after the retirement date

https://connect.opers.state.ok.us/

Digital Retirement Application

- Access from the OPERS Forms page.
- Member must complete the application themselves.
- The Retirement Application page has instructions on information and documents needed to complete the application.
- Video instructions



Watch this video for a tutorial on completing and digitally signing



Before you start the application...

- · Your retirement action
- Beneficiary information for <u>retiree death benefits</u>: Information will include name elationship, date of birth, Social Security number and address

- Proof of your <u>date of birth</u> and your joint annuitant, if applicable.
- decree or death certificate)

Digital Signature & Submitting Your Retirement Application

instructions to digitally sign your retirement application through OneSpan Your application will not be submitted to OPERS until after it is digitally signed. You must follow the instructions and sign your application within the retirement

Are You Ready to Begin?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Attend a Pre-Retirement Seminar



OPERS 💸 OKLAHOMA

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Retirement Process



Coordinator receives request for preliminary certification











Coordinator receives

request for final

certification





OPERS receives & approves application

Member's retirement day

Member receives first two benefits

Certification Information

- First Name
- Last Name
- SSN
- Retirement Date
- Last Date on Payroll
- Unused Sick Leave Hours
- Phone



General Certification Process

Preliminary Certification

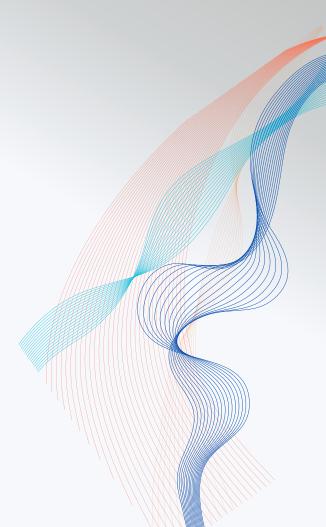
- 1. Log in to the Employer Website: https://connect.opers.state.ok.us.
- 2. Use the **Preliminary Retirement Certification** menu item.
- 3. Find and **Edit** or **Create** a record for the employee to be certified.
- 4. Enter the requested information and agree to the certification.
- 5. Apply Changes or Create the certification.

Final Certification

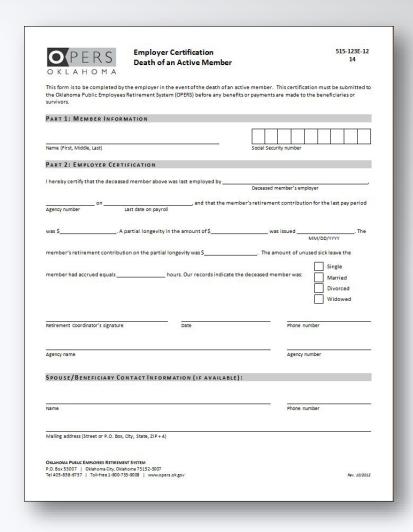
- 1. Log in to the Employer Website: https://connect.opers.state.ok.us.
- 2. Use the **Final Retirement Certification** menu item.
- 3. Find and **Edit** the record for the employee to be certified.
- 4. Enter the requested information.
- 5. **Apply Changes** to the record.
- 6. Work all other records needed.
- 7. **Send to OPERS** all the completed records.

Death of an Active Member

- Call OPERS to report death
 - Name and member ID
 - Date of death
 - Marital status & spouse information
 - Beneficiary information, if known
 - Unused sick leave amount
 - Last day physically on the job & last date on payroll



Death of an Active Member



Employer Certification – Death of an Active Member (515-123E-12)

Return to OPERS as soon as possible.

Death of an Active Member

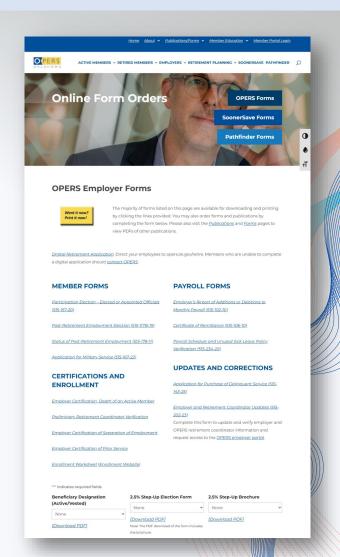
- Pay out an Option B lifetime benefit to spouse
 - Eligible to retire
 - Eligible to vest
 - No other benefit is paid

- Pay out member contributions, less taxes, to beneficiary
 - Not married
 - Not eligible to vest or retire

Additional Information and Resources

Forms and Publications

opers.ok.gov > Employers > OPERS Forms



Updating Coordinator Information

- On the OPERS website
 - Employers > OPERS Forms
- Return to communications@opers.ok.gov
- One form per person you need to
 - Add
 - Remove
 - Update
- Use to update employer info

O PERS	Employe	r and Retirement	Coordina	tor Updates	515-202-23 A
O K L A H O M A					
Complete this form to upon the OPERS employer portain the open series of the open series of the main retire. Part 1 - Employer II	l (https://connec	.opers.state.ok.us). T	he main retir	ement coordinator ma	
Employer name			Er	mployer number	
Mailing address (Street or P.0	D. Box, City, State, Z	īp+4)			
Phone number	Fax nu	ımber			
PART 2 -RETIREMENT			IATION		
Only one main coordinato coordinator will be change	ed to an alternate.	You must submit and	other form to	remove them.	_
OPERS/Pathfinder coordin	ator:	Main coordinator	Alterr	nate coordinator	Remove
SoonerSave coordinator (i	fapplicable):	Main coordinator	Alterr	nate coordinator	Remove
Retirement coordinator's na	me				
Email address				hone number	
PART 3 -OPERS EMP	LOYER PORTAL	Access		Toric Hamber	
Use the check boxes to inc named above.	licate the level of	access to the employ	er portal requ	uested for the retireme	ent coordinator
☐ No portal access	OR	☐ Enrollme	nts	Retirement	certifications
		☐ Payroll re	eporting	Address cha	anges
PART 4 - EMPLOYER	APPROVAL				
I certify the above informa changes above.	ition is true and o	orrect to the best of n	ny knowledge	e. I certify I am authori	zed to make the
Name			Ti	tle	
Email			Pi	hone	
Signature				ate	

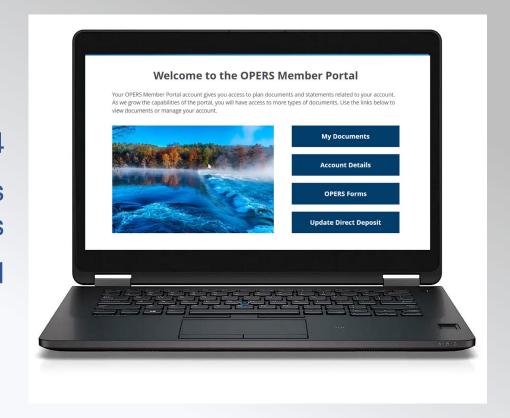
Member Portal



Launched January 2024

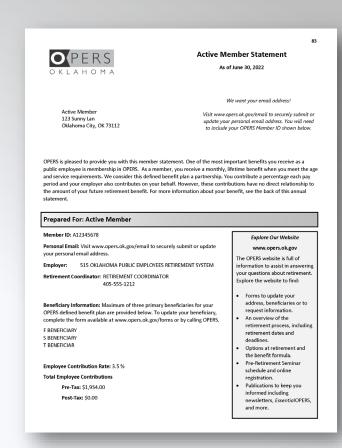
Members can access important documents

More features planned



Annual Statements

- Members with email on file received an email notice
- Annual statements were mailed beginning of September
- Includes:
 - OPERS Member ID
 - Primary beneficiary(ies)
 - Contribution rate and totals
 - Coordinator information

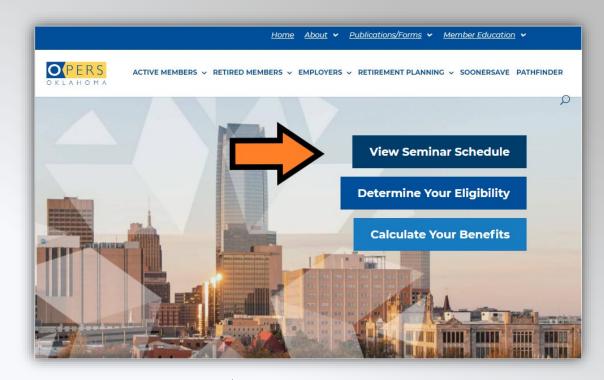


Seminars & Webinars

OPERS Info: a quick one-hour OPERS basics seminar. Hosted quarterly. Great for mid-career employees.

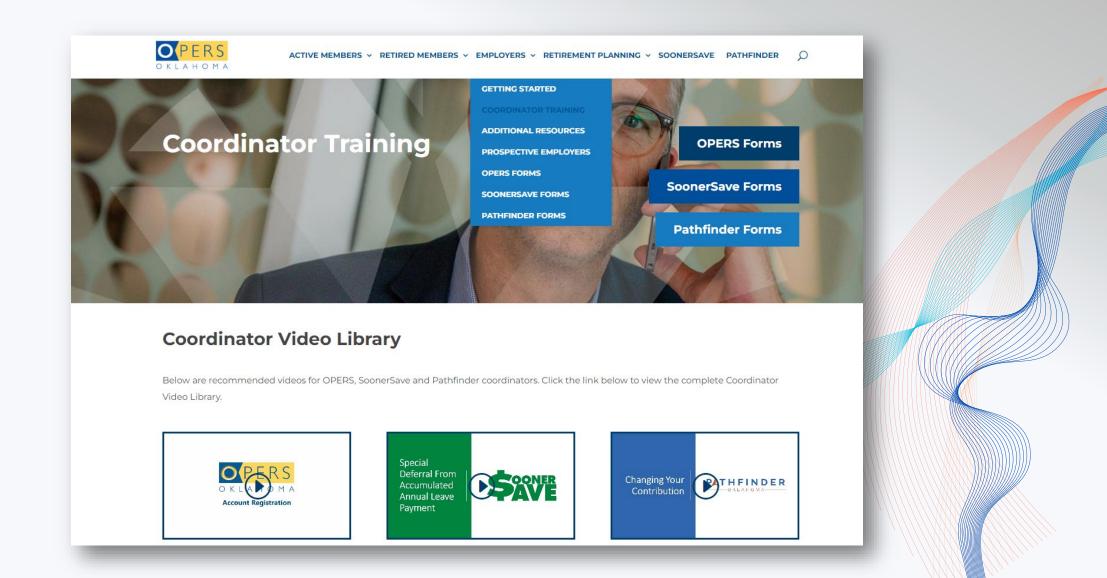
OPERS Pre-Retirement: a three-hour seminar detailing the retirement process. EGID joins to share information about insurance. Hosted often.

View schedule and register online



opers.ok.gov/opers-seminar-schedule

Coordinator Video Library



Questions & Answers



Thank you!

