# Table of Contents

## 1 Overview .......................................................................................................................... 7

1.1 Administration of System and Funds ........................................................................... 7  
  1.1.1 TRF History ............................................................................................................. 8
1.2 Vision .......................................................................................................................... 8
1.3 Mission ..................................................................................................................... 8
1.4 Principles .................................................................................................................. 8
1.5 Board of Trustees ...................................................................................................... 8
1.6 Indiana Code Governing TRF ................................................................................... 9
1.7 Other Teachers’ Retirement Fund Member Handbooks ............................................. 9
1.8 Important Terms ....................................................................................................... 9

## 2 Membership ................................................................................................................... 11

2.1 TRF Hybrid Plan or TRF My Choice: Retirement Savings Plan .................................. 11
2.2 Eligibility .................................................................................................................. 11  
  2.2.1 1996 (‘96) Fund ...................................................................................................... 12
  2.2.2 Pre-1996 (Pre-‘96) Fund ....................................................................................... 12
  2.2.3 Substitute Teaching ............................................................................................... 12
2.3 Enrollment ................................................................................................................ 13
2.4 Ineligibility .............................................................................................................. 13
2.5 Suspension of Membership ...................................................................................... 13
2.6 Personal Information ............................................................................................... 13

## 3 Contributions .................................................................................................................. 15

3.1 Employer Contributions ............................................................................................ 15  
  3.1.1 Contribution Rate ................................................................................................. 15
      Contribution Rate – 1996 (‘96) Fund ........................................................................ 15
      Contribution Rate – Pre-1996 (Pre-‘96) Fund ......................................................... 15
  3.1.2 Changes in Employer Contribution Rate .............................................................. 15
3.2 Member Contributions .............................................................................................. 15  
  3.2.1 Defined Benefit ..................................................................................................... 16
  3.2.2 Defined Contributions ......................................................................................... 16
  3.2.3 Mandatory Contributions ................................................................................... 16
  3.2.4 Voluntary Contributions ..................................................................................... 17
      Voluntary Pre-Tax Contributions ............................................................................ 17
      Voluntary Post-Tax Contributions ......................................................................... 17
  3.2.5 Rollover Funds into TRF Hybrid ......................................................................... 17
3.3 Quarterly Member Statement ..................................................................................... 18
3.4 Vested Status ........................................................................................................... 18

## 4 Service Credit .................................................................................................................. 20

4.1 General Service Credit Rules ..................................................................................... 20
4.1.4 10-Year Requirement ................................................................. 21

4.2 Member Service Credit ................................................................ 21

4.3 Types of Service Credit ................................................................. 22

4.3.1 PERF Service ........................................................................... 22

4.3.2 Military Service ................................................................. 22

   Active Duty Prior to USERRA ......................................................... 23
   Active Duty After USERRA ............................................................ 23
   Training ......................................................................................... 23
   Report Military Service .................................................................. 23

   Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights (USERRA) Eligibility ................................................................. 24

4.4 Leave of Absence ........................................................................ 25

4.4.1 Service Credit for Leave of Absence ........................................ 25

4.4.2 Leave of Absence and the 1/7th Rule ........................................ 25

4.4.3 Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) .................................... 26

4.4.4 Other Paid Leaves ................................................................. 26

4.4.5 Other Granted Leaves ............................................................ 26

   The 1/7th Rule .............................................................................. 26
   Work in a Federally Supported Educational Project ....................... 26
   Adoption Leave and Maternity or Paternity Leave ......................... 27
   Worker’s Compensation Leave ..................................................... 27
   Sabbatical Leave for Improvement of Professional Skills ................ 27

4.5 Service Credit for Disability ......................................................... 27

4.6 Reinstatement of Service ............................................................... 27

4.7 Creditable Service ....................................................................... 28

4.7.1 Transfer of Creditable Service into TRF Hybrid ......................... 28

4.7.2 Transfer of Creditable Service from TRF Hybrid ....................... 28

4.8 Omitted Contributions and Substitute Teaching Service ............... 28

4.9 Additional Service Credit ............................................................. 29

4.9.1 Basic Qualifications .................................................................. 29

4.9.2 Cost to Purchase Service Credit ............................................... 29

4.9.3 Purchase Additional Service Credit ........................................... 30

   Purchase Out-of-State Service Credit ............................................. 30
   Purchase Private School Service Credit ......................................... 32
   Purchase Substitute Teacher Service Credit ................................... 32

   Purchase Military Service Credit .................................................. 32
   Purchase “Air Time” Service Credit ................................................. 33

4.9.4 Purchase Service in another Plan .............................................. 33

4.9.5 Purchase Service Credit with Rollover from another Plan .......... 34

4.10 Service in a Dual Position ............................................................ 34

4.11 Service Credit Inquiry ................................................................. 34

5 Investment Options ........................................................................ 35

5.1 Defined Contribution Account ...................................................... 35

5.1.1 Rollover Funds to TRF Hybrid ................................................ 36

5.2 Investment Considerations ........................................................... 36

   5.2.1 Investment Options for Defined Contribution and RSA Funds ... 36

   Stable Value Fund ....................................................................... 37
6 Withdrawals, Distributions, and Loans ........................................40

6.1 Withdrawals .............................................................................. 40
6.2 Distributions ............................................................................ 40
  6.2.1 Defined Contribution Distribution ....................................... 40
  Distribution of Defined Contributions after Employer Separation .... 41
  Distribution of Defined Contributions without Employer Separation 41
  Voluntary Member Contributions .............................................. 42
6.3 IRC 401(a) 17 Limits ............................................................... 42
  Table 1: Compensation Limits .................................................. 43
  6.3.1 Distribution of a Rollover into TRF Hybrid .......................... 44
  6.3.2 Voluntary Withdrawal of Rollover Funds Other than at Retirement . 44
  6.3.3 Suspension of Membership ............................................. 44
  Defined Contribution Distribution Request .............................. 44
  Less Than 10 Years of Service Credit ....................................... 44
  6.4 CARES Act ......................................................................... 46
  6.4.1 CARES Act – COVID Qualifications ................................. 46
  6.5 Staying Invested ................................................................... 46
  6.6 Loans .................................................................................. 46

7 Beneficiaries (Survivors) ............................................................... 47

7.1 Designating Beneficiaries (Survivors) ....................................... 47
  7.1.1 Survivor Benefit when Member Is Not Retired ................... 48
7.2 Changing a Beneficiary after Retirement ................................ 48
7.3 Divorce .................................................................................. 49
  7.3.1 Qualified Domestic Relations Order (QDRO) .................... 49
7.4 Naming a Trust or Legal Entity as Beneficiary .......................... 49
7.5 Disclaiming a Benefit ............................................................. 49

8 Retirement Benefits ................................................................... 50

8.1 Retirement Benefit ................................................................... 50
8.2 Retirement Eligibility ............................................................... 50
8.3 Retirement Ineligibility ............................................................ 51
8.4 Retirement Effective Date ....................................................... 51
8.5 Retirement Options ................................................................. 51
  Table 2: Retirement Options .................................................... 51
  8.5.1 Regular Retirement with a Full (Unreduced) Benefit .............. 52
  8.5.2 Regular Retirement without Employer Separation (Active, In Service) 53
  8.5.3 Millie Morgan Retirement .................................................. 53
  8.5.4 Elected Official Retirement ............................................. 54
8.5.5 Early Retirement with a Reduced Benefit ................................................................. 54
Table 3: Retirement Age/Percent of Retirement Benefit ......................................... 54
8.5.6 Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) ......................................................... 55
8.5.7 Disability Retirement ......................................................................................... 55
Disability Retirement Types .................................................................................... 55
Disability Benefits ................................................................................................. 57
8.6 Retirement Minimum Benefit ............................................................................. 58
8.7 Calculating Retirement Benefits .......................................................................... 58
8.7.1 Retirement Benefits Calculator ...................................................................... 58
Table 4: Retirement Benefits Calculator and Example ......................................... 59
Option 1 .................................................................................................................. 59
Option 2 .................................................................................................................. 59
Option 3 (Social Security Integration) ...................................................................... 59
8.7.2 Final Average Earnings for Retirement ............................................................. 60
8.7.3 Last Day in Pay for Retirement ....................................................................... 60
8.8 Retirement Benefit Payment Options .................................................................. 60
8.8.1 Five-Year Certain and Life .............................................................................. 61
8.8.2 Straight Life .................................................................................................... 61
8.8.3 100 Percent Survivor Benefit ....................................................................... 61
8.8.4 66⅔ Percent Joint and Survivor Benefit ....................................................... 61
8.8.5 50 Percent Joint and Survivor Benefit .......................................................... 61
8.8.6 Social Security Integration (SSI) ................................................................... 61
8.9 Deductions .......................................................................................................... 62
8.10 Defined Contribution and Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution Account Payment Options .......................................................... 62
8.10.1 Prior to Retirement .......................................................................................... 63
8.10.2 Combine Defined Contribution Account with Monthly Retirement Benefit .......................................................... 63
8.10.3 Split Defined Contribution Account with Monthly Retirement Benefit .......................................................... 63
8.10.4 MetLife Annuity ............................................................................................ 64
8.10.5 Direct Rollover ............................................................................................... 64
8.10.6 Lump Sum ..................................................................................................... 65
8.10.7 Deferment ..................................................................................................... 65
8.11 Re-Employment of Retired Members ................................................................. 65
8.11.1 30-Day Requirement ..................................................................................... 65
8.11.2 Second Retirement .......................................................................................... 66
8.12 Direct Deposit ...................................................................................................... 67
8.13 Retirement Benefit Payment Dates ..................................................................... 67
8.14 Retirement Application Requirements ............................................................. 67
8.15 Benefit Overpayment and Underpayment ....................................................... 68
8.16 Health Insurance ............................................................................................... 68
8.16.1 Supplemental Group Health Insurance ......................................................... 68
8.16.2 Early Retiree Insurance Program .................................................................. 68

9 Death Benefits ........................................................................................................ 69
9.1 Death in Retirement .............................................................................................. 69
9.2 Death While In Service ....................................................................................... 69
9.2.1 Survivor Benefit when Member Is Not Retired ............................................. 70
9.3 Death While Out of Service ................................................................................ 70
9.4 Death in Disability ............................................................................................... 71
9.5 Trust or Legal Entity as Death Beneficiary ....................................................... 71
9.6 HEART Act ......................................................................................................... 71
10 Income Tax Considerations

10.1 Tax Forms and Withholding
10.2 Tax Withholding
10.3 Deductions
  10.3.1 Taxation of Defined Contributions
  10.3.2 Basis Recovery Tax Rules
    Retirements Processed Prior to January 1, 2018
    All Active Accounts beginning January 1, 2018

11 Additional Plan Information

11.1 Cost of Living Adjustments
11.2 13th Check Annual Supplemental Payment
11.3 Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) Information
  11.3.1 Death Benefit Required Minimum Distribution
11.4 Administrative Review
  11.4.1 Initial Determination
  11.4.2 Administrative Law Judge
  11.4.3 Judicial Review
11.5 Power of Attorney
11.6 Guardian
11.7 Access to Records
  11.7.1 Member Records
  11.7.2 Public Records
11.8 Confidentiality of Fund Records
Overview

1.1 Administration of System and Funds

Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS) administers 11 pension trust funds consisting of eight defined benefit and three defined contribution retirement funds, one other postemployment benefit fund, and one custodial fund. In accordance with Indiana Code (IC) 5-10.5, INPRS is governed by a nine-member Board of Trustees, appointed by the Governor.

Legislation approving the merging of the administration of funds for the Public Employees’ Retirement Fund (PERF), which managed the following:

- Public Employees’ Retirement Fund (PERF)
- Prosecuting Attorneys’ Retirement Fund (PARF)
- 1977 Police Officers’ and Firefighters’ Retirement Fund (‘77 Fund)
- Legislators’ Retirement System (LRS)
- Judges’ Retirement System (JRS)
- Excise, Gaming and Conservation Officers’ Retirement Plan (EG&C)

and the Teachers’ Retirement Fund (TRF) was adopted by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor in April 2011. The creation of the Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS) became effective July 1, 2011. Combined membership totals equal nearly 500,000 members.

Each retirement fund will continue as a separate fund under the oversight of a combined INPRS nine-member Board of Trustees. Individual funded status for each plan will continue to be calculated separately.

INPRS also oversees three non-retirement funds:

- Special Death Benefit Fund (SDBF) - Effective July 1, 2017 the State Employees’ Death Benefit Fund, Public Safety Officers’ Benefit Fund, and the lump sum distributions for the line of duty deaths from the Local Public Safety Pension Relief Fund were merged together to form the Special Death Benefit Fund. The lump sum distributions from the SDBF are $100,000 for state employees and $225,000 for public safety officers or other eligible officers (as defined by IC 5-10-10-4.5) who die in the line of duty. For public safety officers who die in the line of duty on July 1, 2020 or later, the amount of the special death benefit is $225,000.

- Local Public Safety Pension Relief Fund (LPSPR) – LPSPR is a fiduciary fund and is generally administered in accordance with IC 5-10.3 and IC 36-8. The purpose is to provide financial relief to pension funds maintained by units of local government for their police officers’ and firefighters’ retirement plan benefits.

- Retirement Medical Benefits Account (RMBA) – RMBA is a health reimbursement account available to certain qualifying state retirees.

For additional information about each fund, visit the Annual Reports page of the INPRS website.
1.1.1 TRF History

The Indiana General Assembly created the Indiana Teachers’ Retirement Fund (TRF) in 1921. Since then, they have changed some laws for TRF to respond to the needs of members like you.

As of July 1, 2010, the Board of Trustees of the Indiana State Teachers’ Retirement Fund (TRF) and Public Employees’ Retirement Fund (PERF) was required to select and set the salary for a common director for TRF and PERF. An executive director carries out the policies set by the board and manages the fund on a daily basis. See IC 5-10.5 for more information.

Each fund must pay 50 percent of the director’s salary and cooperate in managing and investing the assets of the funds.

1.2 Vision

Engaged members able to realize their retirement dreams

1.3 Mission

As fiduciaries, educate stakeholders, collect necessary contributions, and prudently manage member assets to deliver promised DB and DC benefits and services.

1.4 Principles

- **Integrity**: We hold ourselves accountable to the highest standards of ethical and professional behavior.
- **Stewardship**: We manage assets held in trust for current and future retirees. We are value oriented. We rigorously identify, measure, and manage risks.
- **Service**: We exist to serve our stakeholders with attentiveness to high quality, respectful customer service.
- **Trust**: We are our stakeholders’ trusted source of reliable information.
- **Collaboration**: We seek out stakeholder input when establishing goals and setting priorities.

1.5 Board of Trustees

The Governor appoints the following Board members for INPRS pursuant to the following criteria:

- One trustee with experience in economics, finance, or investments.
- One trustee with experience in executive management or benefits administration.
- One trustee who is an active or retired member of the ‘77 Fund.
- Two trustees who are TRF members with at least 10 years of creditable service:
- One trustee who is a PERF member with at least 10 years of creditable service.
- Director of the State Budget Agency, or designee.
- Auditor of State, or nominee.
- Treasurer of State, or nominee.
The executive director carries out the policies set by the Board and administers the Fund on a daily basis (Indiana Code (IC) 5-10.5).

1.6 Indiana Code Governing TRF

The laws and regulations governing the TRF may be found in IC 5-10.2, IC 5-10.4, IC 5-10.5, 35 IAC, and Internal Revenue Code Section 401 govern TRF, as well as specific resolutions adopted by the Board of Trustees. These codes are available online at the Indiana General Assembly website. The content of this member handbook does not constitute legal advice, and nothing herein should be considered a legal opinion. In the event of a discrepancy between information in this handbook and the laws of the state of Indiana, the applicable law shall apply.

1.7 Other Teachers’ Retirement Fund Member Handbooks

The Teachers’ Retirement Fund (TRF) has two plans and a handbook for each:

- TRF Hybrid Plan Member Handbook
- TRF My Choice: Retirement Savings Plan Member Handbook

1.8 Important Terms

- **Beneficiary** – in general, the person or institution designated to receive all or part of your TRF benefits upon your death. There are several types of beneficiaries, which are further discussed throughout this handbook.

- **Contributions** – funds paid to TRF by employers and/or employees to fund future benefits.

- **Creditable Service** – each period of continuous employment in a TRF-covered position. Creditable service is important in determining your qualification for benefits.

- **Defined Contribution (DC) Account** – the individual account provided for each member of TRF that is funded by 3 percent mandatory contributions. These contributions are paid either by the member in payroll deductions or by the employer on the member’s behalf. Voluntary contributions, interest and earnings may also be added to this account.

- **Employer** – a participating public entity that employs TRF members.

- **Mandatory Contributions** – contributions to the DC that must be made as required by state law.

- **Member** – a public employee enrolled in TRF.

- **Public Employee** – an employee of the state of Indiana, public schools, innovation schools and universities, and other state and local political subdivisions. Employees of private companies are not eligible for membership.

- **Retirement Benefit** – a lifetime monthly benefit paid by TRF either to an eligible member after retirement from TRF-covered employment or to the member’s eligible survivor. This benefit is funded by TRF employers.

- **Rollover Savings Account** – RSA now referred to as Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution or RSA (for Investments). Consists of a member’s funds transferred to TRF from another qualified plan plus any interest or earnings.
- **Survivor Beneficiary** – the person receiving a designated percentage of your TRF benefits upon your death. There are several types of survivor beneficiaries, which are further discussed throughout this handbook.

- **TRF-Covered Position** – any eligible position for which an employer elects to cover and make contributions to TRF to fund retirement benefits.

- **Vesting/Vested** – the minimum amount of time you must work in one or more covered positions to qualify for a benefit from a retirement fund.

- **Voluntary Contributions** – contributions made to the DC that a member may choose to make through payroll deductions if his or her employer participates in the program.
Membership

Members of the Teachers’ Retirement Fund (TRF) include teachers in a public school corporation, certain INPRS employees, and some employees in charter schools, innovation schools, turnaround schools, and public universities.

After your employer enrolls you in TRF, you will receive a welcome packet by mail from INPRS. The packet has instructions for you to register for an online account. A PIN will be mailed to you. You will need the PIN to register for the first time on the website. You also need to keep your PIN for ongoing access to the automated phone system. Once you have registered, you can name beneficiaries, update your address and make investment elections to your Defined Contribution (DC) account.

NOTE: If you do not make investment elections, your contributions will default to a Target Date Fund based on your estimated year of retirement. See the Investments section of this member handbook for more information.

Member and employer membership eligibility requirements for TRF are clearly defined. All eligible employees are members.

NOTE: As of June 30, 2017, TRF had nearly 150,000 active, inactive and retired members and beneficiaries with approximately $11.4 billion in assets. For more information about metrics that apply to TRF and all of INPRS go to the Summary Annual Report page of the INPRS website.

2.1 TRF Hybrid Plan or TRF My Choice: Retirement Savings Plan

If you are a new employee and your employer participates in TRF, you have 60 days from your date of hire to choose between two retirement options:

- TRF Hybrid Plan [Defined Benefit (DB) plus a Defined Contribution (DC)], or
- TRF My Choice: Retirement Savings Plan (DC plan).

If you do not choose within 60 days, you will be defaulted to the plan that your employer has chosen as the default plan. If your employer does not participate in the TRF My Choice Plan, you will be enrolled into the TRF Hybrid Plan.

NOTE: Your election, or default, is irrevocable so be sure to make an informed decision within the 60-day election period.

2.2 Eligibility

If you are a legally qualified teacher, as defined in IC 5-10.4-4-1, who is regularly employed in a covered position in the public school system of Indiana or in a qualified position at certain state institutions, or as a TRF employee as of June 30, 2011, you are a member of TRF.

If you are employed as faculty or staff at certain charter schools and public universities throughout Indiana or are a legally qualified State employee, you and your employer are eligible for optional enrollment. If
you were a State employee with TRF at the time that INPRS was instituted, you remain as a member of TRF (July 1, 2011). Otherwise you are a member of PERF. See the **PERF Hybrid Plan Member Handbook** for details.

According to Indiana law, if you are a substitute teacher you may be a member of TRF upon completion of the following:

- Certified by the Indiana State Board of Education
- Obtained at least an associate’s degree
- Taught at least 120 days in a fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) or at least 60 days in each of two fiscal years

Certification from the State Board of Education may include a teaching license, a substitute teaching permit, a temporary teaching license, or an emergency teaching license. However, if your license expires, you are no longer eligible to be a TRF member until a new license is issued. No contributions are collected for substitute teachers who do not meet the criteria outlined in this member handbook.

If you are employed as regularly contracted faculty or administrative staff at certain universities and your institution has been designated as eligible by the INPRS Board, you have the option of joining TRF. If you are a new teacher, you cannot join the fund until your university has petitioned the Board on your behalf.

You may also have the option to join if you are employed by a governing body or the Indiana State Board of Education and were qualified before your election or appointment.

### 2.2.1 1996 (‘96) Fund

If you joined TRF for the first time after June 30, 1995, or you changed employers between June 30, 1995, and July 1, 2005, you are a ‘96 Fund member. Effective July 1, 2005, if you were a new member to TRF you are enrolled in the ‘96 Fund. All others remain in the Fund to which they belonged on that date. All members employed by the State of Indiana and the public universities which are covered by TRF are treated as being members of the ‘96 Fund.

### 2.2.2 Pre-1996 (Pre-‘96) Fund

If you enrolled prior to July 1, 1995, and have never changed employers, or you enrolled prior to July 1, 1995, and changed employment after June 30, 2005, you are a member of the Pre-‘96 Fund. This does not include any members who are employed by the State of Indiana and the covered public universities.

### 2.2.3 Substitute Teaching

According to Indiana law, if you are a substitute teacher you may be a member of TRF if you:

- are certified by the Indiana State Board of Education,
- have at least an associate’s degree,
- teach at least 120 days in a fiscal year (July 1 to June 30), or at least 60 days in each of two fiscal years.

The State Board of Education certifies you if you have a teaching license, a substitute teaching permit, a temporary teaching license, or an emergency teaching license. However, if your license expires, you are
no longer qualified to be a TRF member. You will qualify for membership once you obtain a new license. If you are a substitute teacher and do not meet these criteria, no contributions for your retirement benefit will be collected.

2.3 Enrollment

After your employer enrolls you in the fund, INPRS opens a DC account in your name and you become a member. Once INPRS receives contributions, you will receive a welcome packet with your membership information. The packet has instructions for you to register for an online account. A PIN will be mailed to you. Once you have registered, you can name beneficiaries, update your address, and make investment elections for your DC.

2.4 Ineligibility

Indiana Administrative Code (35 IAC 14-4-3) provides that teacher aides and higher education graduate assistants are not eligible for membership in TRF. A list of school positions that are not considered to be “teacher” is provided in 35 IAC 14-1-28. This is not an all-inclusive list, but it includes certain dormitory staff, licensed management personnel, occupational and physical therapists, and counselors.

2.5 Suspension of Membership

See the Investment Options, Suspension of Membership section of this handbook for details.

2.6 Personal Information

Your name and address on file in INPRS’s records is the primary contact information maintained by INPRS.

You can report any change in demographic information by contacting the Member Service Center at (844) GO-INPRS (844-464-6777). For TDD call (800) 579-5708. Customer Service Representatives are available weekdays (excluding weekends and state-designated holidays) from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET, or by logging into your account at myINPRSretirement.org.

Your employer can report your name changes when reporting wage and contribution information. However, changing your address and beneficiary information with your employer will not update that information with INPRS. You need to contact INPRS directly to update your personal information.

To Change Your Beneficiary as an Active Member submit the form to the address indicated on the form or log in to your account at myINPRSretirement.org. For forms applicable to TRF, visit the Teachers’ Retirement Fund (TRF) Member Forms page of the INPRS website.

NOTE: As long as you have assets or a current or future benefit with the Fund, it is critical you keep INPRS informed of any changes to your name, addresses, or beneficiaries. These changes require separate notifications to either the Member Service Center or by accessing your account at myINPRSretirement.org.

For example: Getting married and changing your name does not automatically result in a change to your beneficiary designation.
3 Contributions

All Indiana public schools are required to participate in the TRF Hybrid retirement plan.

- Charter schools can elect to opt out of the TRF Hybrid retirement plan if they offer an alternative plan. If an alternative plan is offered, individual members may elect to opt out of TRF participation.
- Certain legally qualified state agencies are also eligible for participation.
- In addition, some universities have the option of participating in the TRF Hybrid retirement plan.

3.1 Employer Contributions

The employer contributions fund the employer’s pension benefit obligations. These contributions do not fund individual member Defined Contribution (DC) accounts.

3.1.1 Contribution Rate

Contribution Rate – 1996 (’96) Fund

Employers contribute at an actuarially determined rate which is evaluated annually and approved by the INPRS Board. This is a flat rate, which is charged to all employers. These contributions are made to fund the employer’s pension benefit obligations for members in the ‘96 Fund. The amount is expressed as a percentage of the gross payroll for all members in the ‘96 Fund; the employer contribution rate is separate and distinct from the 3 percent mandatory member contributions.

Contribution Rate – Pre-1996 (Pre-‘96) Fund

Employers do not contribute to TRF for members in the Pre-‘96 Fund. Annual appropriations are made to TRF and placed in the Pension Stabilization Fund. The investments in the Pension Stabilization Fund combined with funding from the General Fund provide the pension benefits of members in the pre-‘96 Fund on a pay-as-you-go basis.

3.1.2 Changes in Employer Contribution Rate

The employer contribution rate may change from year to year depending on the current pension obligations of the ‘96 Fund. Factors that may cause a change in rates may include, but are not limited to, investment returns, turnover, mortality experience, an increase in membership or wages, recent retirements, members reaching vesting status, and certification of prior creditable service for current or former members. See the Employer Contribution Rate Information page on the INPRS website for details.

3.2 Member Contributions

You may contribute to your DC account or your employer may do this on your behalf, or both.

If you are not retired and have money in your DC account, you can also roll over funds from an IRA or other qualified retirement plan into TRF Hybrid. See the Rollover Funds into TRF Hybrid section of this handbook for details.
3.2.1 Defined Benefit

Your monthly pension benefit is referred to as the Defined Benefit (DB) and upon retirement you will receive a monthly benefit from TRF for the rest of your life. This pension benefit is paid for by the State or your employer.

3.2.2 Defined Contributions

Your DC account has money set aside for you to use after you retire. The funds in this account come from money contributed by your employer on your behalf, and/or money contributed by you, and money earned from investing your account.

The DC can serve to supplement your retirement benefit and can be withdrawn (full or partial), rolled over (full or partial) into a qualifying IRA or retirement plan or an annuity plan, or used to purchase an annuity through MetLife. It is an important way of increasing retirement savings. However, if you leave covered employment before becoming eligible to receive a retirement benefit, you may take a distribution of your DC funds under certain conditions.

The following are the types of transactions that are part of your DC:

- mandatory contributions,
- voluntary contributions (pre- and post-tax), and
- investment profits and losses.

Within the DC there are two types of contributions:

- **Mandatory** – Paid by the employer, by you, or shared by both.
- **Voluntary** – Optional and post-tax is available to you if you work for an employer who is willing to deduct and report the voluntary contributions. As of January 1, 2018, voluntary pre-tax contributions are no longer available for new enrollment. However, if you enrolled in the Voluntary Pre-Tax Contribution account prior to January 1, 2018, you continue to make contributions and upon re-employment with the same employer you are required to continue with the voluntary pre-tax deductions. **Enrollment in the plan is irrevocable.**

Along with mandatory and voluntary contributions, your DC has contributions from investment profits and losses.

3.2.3 Mandatory Contributions

State law requires that 3 percent of your gross covered wages (W-2 reportable wages—regular and overtime) be contributed to TRF to fund the DC. Employers are given the option of paying your 3 percent contributions (pre-tax) as part of a wage adjustment; however, not all employers choose to do so.

- If you work for the State, a quasi-governmental agency, or a university, the 3 percent is paid by your employer on your behalf before taxes are calculated on wages.
• For all others, the 3 percent is deducted through payroll deduction, or your employer may pay all or part of this mandatory 3 percent contribution. The governing body of the employer makes this decision, and generally, may change it at any time.

Regardless of whether you make the 3 percent contribution, or your employer makes it on your behalf, those contributions are considered member contributions and are sent to INPRS for deposit in your DC account. These contributions and accumulated interest credits (earnings and losses) are refundable to you should you terminate employment prior to becoming eligible for the Defined Benefit Retirement. While actively employed in a position covered by the Fund, you are not permitted to withdraw funds. See the Millie Morgan Retirement section of this handbook for an exception.

3.2.4 Voluntary Contributions

In addition to the 3 percent mandatory contribution, you may contribute up to an additional 10 percent of your compensation. This additional 10 percent can be all post-tax, all pre-tax (if enrolled in the Voluntary Pre-Tax Contribution account prior to January 1, 2018), or a combination of both post- and pre-tax (if enrolled prior to January 1, 2018). If you want to make voluntary contributions to your DC, talk to your employer’s payroll staff.

Voluntary Pre-Tax Contributions

As of January 1, 2018, no further enrollments for voluntary pre-tax contributions are allowed. If you were enrolled prior to January 1, 2018, the percentage of each pay period’s wages which you chose to contribute on a pre-tax basis will continue as it is irrevocable election and cannot be changed as long as you work for the same employer in any TRF-covered position. If you leave employment and return to the same employer, your pre-tax contribution will be reinstated, but cannot be changed.

Voluntary Post-Tax Contributions

When you make post-tax voluntary contributions, federal, state, and Social Security taxes are withheld. Your take-home pay is reduced by the total amount contributed.

Because these funds have already been taxed, they will not be taxed again; however, it is important to know that any earnings or interest accrued on these funds is still taxable at the time of distribution.

In order for you to make after-tax voluntary contributions, your employer must agree to deduct the amount requested (up to 10 percent) and submit it to PERF. You can stop making post-tax contributions or change the amount deducted at any time.

3.2.5 Rollover Funds into TRF Hybrid

You can roll over funds from an IRA or other qualified retirement plan into your TRF Hybrid DC account as a Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution at any time.

Complete the Transfer Funds from an Outside Account into a TRF RSA and submit them to the address provided on the form. This form is available on the Teachers’ Retirement Fund (TRF) Member Forms page on the INPRS website.

NOTE: TRF can only accept transfers of taxable (pre-tax) funds.
• You can roll over funds into your TRF Hybrid DC account as a Rollover Pre-Tax contribution from any of the following: A qualified plan described in IRS Section 401(a), 403(a), or an annuity contract or account described in Section 403(b)
• An eligible plan maintained by a state or political subdivision of a state, or an agency or instrumentality of a state or political subdivision of a state under IRS Section 457(b)
• An Individual Retirement Account (IRA) described in IRS Section 408(a) or 408(b)
• A traditional or conduit IRA

The Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution may be invested in any of the available investment options. See the *Withdrawals, Distributions, and Loans* section of this handbook for information about DC Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution distributions. See the *Investment Options* section of this handbook for information about investing your RSA (Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution) funds.

**NOTE:** As of July 1, 2018, inactive members can roll over funds from a qualifying IRA or retirement plan into TRF DC as Rollover Pre-Tax Contributions and continue to direct the fund elections.

For additional information regarding the process to roll over funds from another qualified plan, log in to your account at [myINPRSretirement.org](http://myINPRSretirement.org).

### 3.3 Quarterly Member Statement

Each quarter, you receive a statement about your DC account. The total includes any investment gains or losses and any administrative fees.

If you have Rollover Pre-Tax Contributions, they will be included on the Quarterly Member Statement.

Your statement will be posted online and mailed to you. To elect to not have a paper statement mailed to your home, log on to your member account, go to the *My Profile* link and select *Communications Preferences*.

### 3.4 Vested Status

Under State law, vested status is defined as 10 or more years of creditable service or combined creditable and eligibility service under TRF and/or PERF. If you have attained vested status you will be entitled to retirement benefits when meeting the age and service requirements for either early or regular retirement.

You are entitled to full retirement benefits when you meet any of the following age and service requirements:

- Age 65 with 10 years of creditable and/or eligibility service
- Age 60 with 15 years of creditable and/or eligibility service
- At least age 55 and the sum of your age at retirement and the total years of creditable and eligibility service under TRF and/or PERF equal 85 or more (known as the Rule of 85)
NOTE: You are vested immediately for your contributions to your DC account. However, there are restrictions on distributions. Refer to the Withdrawals, Distributions, and Loans section of this member handbook for more information.

You do not have to work for the same employer and the jobs do not have to be for 10 consecutive years in order to reach vested status. A total of 10 years in any combination of TRF Hybrid- and/or PERF Hybrid-covered positions for which an employer makes contributions qualifies as creditable service for vesting purposes.
Service Credit

The most common form of service credit is service earned in a position covered by TRF Hybrid or PERF Hybrid. The following are the types of available service credit; some with and some without cost.

To access the forms associated with purchasing service credit, visit the Teachers’ Retirement Fund (TRF) Member Forms page of the INPRS website.

To access the TRF Service Purchase Calculator, visit the Online Calculators page of the INPRS website.

NOTE: Any service credit granted to a member must comply with the laws in effect at the time of retirement. You are encouraged to request a service credit analysis about 2 years before you retire. This will allow the time needed to verify your service and make corrections, if needed.

After you retire, if you believe an error was made in computing your creditable service, you may request a re-examination of your benefit at any time. By law, (IC 4-21.5) you have up to 6 years after your first monthly retirement benefit payment to appeal a decision made during re-examination of your benefit.

NOTE: Service credit whether purchased or earned, does not apply to the TRF My Choice: Retirement Savings Plan.

4.1 General Service Credit Rules

There are a few general rules on service credit. Not all rules will apply to you. Each rule applies to only certain types of service credit. The various types of service credit available are explained in this section of the handbook.

4.1.1 One-Seventh (1/7th) Rule

This rule applies to you if you earned military and leave of absence service credit.

- You may buy or earn 1 year of service for every six years of teaching. The amount depends on the type of leave.
- You must already have 6 years of teaching credit in TRF Hybrid. This can include in-state, out-of-state, federal, or leave of absence service.
- By law (IC 5-10.4-4-7), you can earn service credit for certain leaves of absence. You cannot earn more than one-seventh of the total years of service you claim for retirement.

4.1.2 One-Fifth (1/5th) Rule

- You can purchase one year of “air time” service for every 5 years of Indiana service. You must have 10 years of creditable service before you are able to purchase this service. See the Purchase “Air Time” Service Credit section of this handbook for details.
- Indiana service can be under TRF Hybrid or PERF Hybrid.
4.1.3 Minimum of One Year

- This rule applies to you if you:
  - taught out-of-state or at a private school,
  - were a substitute teacher, or
  - earned federal teaching credit.
- You can purchase service credit after 1 year of Indiana service in a covered position.
- The service credit will be added to your TRF Hybrid account.

4.1.4 10-Year Requirement

- You can purchase out-of-state, federal, and private school service.
- The service credit will be added to your TRF Hybrid account after you complete 10 years of TRF Hybrid service.
- The service credit may not be used toward vesting.

4.2 Member Service Credit

Creditable service is the amount of time that can be counted in the calculation of the benefits portion of your TRF Hybrid retirement benefit. You earn 1 year of service credit for working 120 or more days in a fiscal year. One-half year of credit is earned for working between 60 and 119 days in a fiscal year. Service credit is measured by a fiscal year that runs from July 1 through June 30. Any time worked during a work day entitles you to a full day of service credit.

Service arising out of jury duty, sick leave, or worker’s compensation may be included. Holidays and weekends are not included.

If you have past service as an employee of the state or participating political subdivision in a position not covered by the retirement fund, you may receive credit for this service. You must have worked before January 1, 1985, in PERF Hybrid or TRF Hybrid and the position became covered prior to January 1, 1985. You will need to submit proof of this service to INPRS.

If you have past service in a position not covered by the retirement fund, you may receive credit for this service if the position was covered after December 31, 1984, by PERF Hybrid or TRF Hybrid and you were employed in the position prior to January 1, 1985. You would need to remain in that position or another position with the same employer at least until the position became covered. You will need to submit proof of this service to INPRS. For more information, see IC 5-10.2-3-1.

NOTE: You receive pay for snow days, but you must make them up later. If you work more days in a month to make up for snow days, your last day at work will still be the last day you are working in the classroom. If you have questions, contact the Member Service Center at (844) GO-INPRS (844-464-6777).
4.3 Types of Service Credit

As a TRF Hybrid member, you may be entitled to one or more types of service credit.

4.3.1 PERF Service

If you retire with service in both TRF Hybrid and PERF Hybrid you must select the fund from which to retire (receive retirement benefits). Upon selection of a fund, all service with both TRF Hybrid and PERF Hybrid will be combined into the fund from which you are retiring. You will receive a single, combined benefit from that specified fund.

When you complete your final service, your retirement benefit will be calculated on the basis of combined creditable service between the two funds. You will be credited one year for each year of covered service, no matter how many positions you held at the time of service.

**NOTE:** You are not allowed to earn double service credit.

**NOTE:** Any DC funds held in both TRF and PERF will be handled according to your choices made during completion of your online retirement application from your account at myINPRSretirement.org.

**Example**

Tom serves as a school teacher during the day in a TRF-covered position. He drives a snow plow at night in a PERF-covered position. Tom has accounts with both TRF and PERF. Even though he is a member of both funds, at retirement his service is merged so that he only gets 1 day of service credit for the concurrent service in TRF and PERF.

4.3.2 Military Service

Military service credit is administered in conjunction with the rights of the veterans under the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA).

If your military service interrupted your 4-year college teaching education, or occurred after completion of your 4-year teaching education, supply INPRS with a copy of your active duty discharge paperwork and your college transcripts so that we may review this information to determine if it qualifies for service under the 1/7th rule.

Only active duty United States Armed Forces military service supported by a DD-214 bearing the Character of Discharge designation “Honorable” will be considered for adding service credits due to military leaves of absence.

If you served in the United States armed services, you are eligible for TRF service credit equal to your actual military service if you meet all of the following conditions:

- You were in a TRF-covered position prior to entering the military.
- You must have an honorable discharge from active military service.
Service Credit

- You must have started approved college teacher training or completed your teacher’s training before induction into active military service.
- If you started but did not complete teacher training before induction into active military service, you must have returned to four-year college teacher training within 24 months after discharge from active military service.
- If you completed college teacher training before induction into active military service, you must start or return to an actual teaching position within 24 months after discharge from active service.
- You must have at least 10 years of Indiana teaching service credit before the military service credit will be added.

You may also be eligible for service credit if your military service is covered by the provisions of the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). See the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) Eligibility section of this handbook for details.

Active Duty Prior to USERRA
Generally, if your military service was prior to USERRA, and while you were actively employed in a TRF covered position, and you did not take distribution of your DC, and return within 6 months of discharge, the time may be added to your service credit. There are exceptions. Supply your employer with a copy of your active duty discharge paperwork so that they may report this information to INPRS to be reviewed as a leave of absence subject to the 1/7th rule.

Active Duty After USERRA
If your active duty military service occurred after USERRA was implemented and while you were actively employed in a TRF covered position, make sure that your employer is given notice of your leave of absence. Upon returning to work, supply your employer with a copy of your active duty discharge paperwork so that your employer may report your time and any wage and contribution reporting owed to INPRS per USERRA regulations up to a maximum of 5 years.

Training
You can earn creditable service if you started a 4-year college teacher training before your induction and then returned to that training within 24 months after your honorable discharge. You must provide copies of transcripts of college work before your induction into active military service and/or after your honorable discharge.

You may qualify if you received a bachelor’s degree in teacher training before your active military service. If you did not teach before joining the military, you must provide copies of your college transcripts before your active military service and/or after your honorable discharge.

If you think you may qualify for one of these service credit options, contact INPRS.

Report Military Service
Your military service credit must be documented and reported by your employer.
To apply for military service credit, you must complete the Verify Your Leave of Absence Service Credit form available on the Teachers’ Retirement Fund (TRF) Member Forms page on the INPRS website.

1. Enter your entire compensation from military service for the fiscal year in the “Compensation” section of the form. If your service covers more than one fiscal year, please fill out a separate form for each year.

2. Your employer needs to code your leave of absence as being “USERRA service”.

You must also provide military documents that show your date of entry into active military service and the date you were honorably discharged from active military service.

**NOTE:** Normally, you can provide this information by sending in the Department of Defense (DD) Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty.

These documents should be mailed to:

Indiana Public Retirement System  
One North Capitol Avenue, Suite 001  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

If you need help locating the DD Form 214, visit the Department of Defense’s website.

For other military records, you can contact:

- [National Personnel Records](#)  
  - Civilian Personnel Records  
  - 1 Archives Drive  
  - St. Louis, MO 63138  
  - (314) 801-0800

**Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights (USERRA) Eligibility**

You may also be eligible for service credit if the provisions of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (38 U.S.C. 4301, et seq.) cover your military service. Conditions for USERRA eligibility are that you must meet all of the following criteria:

- You applied for or currently hold a civilian job,
- You gave written or verbal notice to the civilian employer prior to leaving the job for military training or service except when precluded by military necessity,
- You have not exceeded the five-year limit on periods of service, subject to certain exceptions,
- You have been released from service under honorable conditions, and
- You reported back to the civilian job in a timely manner or submitted a timely application for re-employment

All of yours and your employer’s contributions must be paid upon return to TRF-covered service for leaves if the contributions are picked up by your employer. If your employer does not pick up the contributions, your contributions are not required. Ultimately, INPRS relies on the assertions and verifications made by
Service Credit

the plan’s participating employer. Military service credit guidelines are governed by IC 5-10.4-4-8 and 35 IAC 14-5-4.

4.4 Leave of Absence

You may take certain types of leave from a covered position and still earn or retain service credit. The leave taken may have a different effect on eligibility for pension benefits than it does on the amount of benefits. Various types of leave are discussed below, but you should be certain to speak with your employer and should maintain your own written records of any leave.

4.4.1 Service Credit for Leave of Absence

TRF Hybrid members are entitled to service credit for leaves of absence in some instances.

4.4.2 Leave of Absence and the 1/7th Rule

Certain leaves of absence may count toward your vesting requirement; however, all service credit for leave of absence service is subject to the 1/7th Rule. The 1/7th Rule states that no more than 1/7th of your service total can be comprised of leave of absence service credit.

TRF is generally able to recognize Board-approved leaves of absence granted by a school corporation (employer) for the following reasons:

1. You are on sabbatical to improve your professional skills through:
   - advanced study,
   - work experience,
   - teacher exchange programs, or
   - approved educational travel.

2. You are on disability or sick leave, as allowed by your employer’s sick leave policy. This is true only if you are not already receiving a retirement benefit from TRF*.

3. You are on maternity leave*.

4. You are on adoption leave*.

A leave of absence does not qualify as a bona fide separation from service.

* If you are on leave for disability, pregnancy, or adoption, you are not required to return to service. While on leave, you may earn no more than 1/7th of our total years of creditable service. This is known as “The 1/7th Rule”. The only exceptions to this are the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) or if you had your training or career interrupted by a period of hostility.

Creditable service will be granted in periods of ½ year when you are on a leave of absence. Service credit for pregnancy or adoption leave is limited to 1 year per occurrence. The amount of service granted for a sabbatical or professional improvement leave or for sick leave is the lesser of:

- The length of the leave.
- The length of the period of re-employment following the leave.
For sick leave, an exception is made to this rule in the event the leave is taken immediately before retirement. In that case, the full amount of sick leave may be added even though you have not returned to employment.

All service credit for leave of absence service is subject to the 1/7th Rule.

You should consult with your employer about any leave and ask your employer to contact INPRS about how a leave will affect your creditable service and eligibility.

4.4.3 Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

You may also receive credit for up to 12 weeks of leave taken during a 12-month period under Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) (29 USC 2601, et seq.). Leave is considered only for vesting and for the purpose of determining eligibility and not for calculating benefits if the FMLA is for some reason other than those listed in the Leave of Absence and the 1/7th Rule section of this handbook.

4.4.4 Other Paid Leaves

During a paid leave of absence, you and your employer are required to make contributions. Employer contributions are not required if you are in the pre-96 plan.

4.4.5 Other Granted Leaves

As a member of TRF Hybrid, the following apply.

- As stated in IC 20-28-10-1, a school corporation may grant a teacher a leave of absence not to exceed 1 year for the types of leaves outlined in this section.
- The school corporation may grant consecutive leaves to a teacher and may grant partial compensation for a leave in the amount the school corporation determines
- The teacher has the right to return to a teaching position for which the teacher is certified or otherwise qualified under the rules of the state board.

In all instances, contact the Member Service Center at (844) GO-INPRS (844-464-6777) from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET with questions or concerns.

The 1/7th Rule

According to IC 5-10.4-4-7, a member may be given credit for leaves of absence for study, professional improvement, and temporary disability if the leave credit does not exceed 1/7th of the total years of service claimed for retirement (referred to as the 1/7th Rule). A member granted a leave in these instances for exchange teaching and for other educational employment approved individually by the board is considered a teacher and is entitled to the benefits of the fund if for or during the leave the member pays into the fund the member’s contributions. A leave for other educational employment is not subject to the 1/7th Rule.

Work in a Federally Supported Educational Project

In each case of a member requesting a leave of absence to work in a federally supported educational project, the board must determine that the project is educational in nature and serves state citizens who might otherwise be served by the public schools or state educational institutions. The board will make this determination for a 1-year period, which is later subject to review and reapproval.
Service Credit

Adoption Leave and Maternity or Paternity Leave
You can receive up to 1 year of service credit for Adoption Leave and Maternity or Paternity Leave if the employer certifies that the leave is granted in accordance with the employer’s leave policy.

Worker’s Compensation Leave
Workers’ Compensation Leaves are always creditable and service credit is granted for the full extent of the leave.

Sabbatical Leave for Improvement of Professional Skills
As outlined in IC 20-28-10-3, a school corporation may grant a teacher, on written request, a sabbatical for improvement of professional skills through:

- advanced study;
- work experience;
- teacher exchange programs; or
- approved educational travel.

After taking a sabbatical, the teacher must return for a length of time equal to that of the sabbatical leave.

4.5 Service Credit for Disability
No creditable service will be granted during the period for which TRF disability benefits are paid; however, if you are a state employee, you are entitled to service credit for the time you are receiving short- or long-term disability benefits under a state of-Indiana sponsored disability plan, not to exceed 4½ years.

4.6 Reinstatement of Service
Under previous TRF pension law, if you separate from service, take a withdrawal from your DC account, and later you return to service in a TRF Hybrid-covered position for at least 60 days in a school year, you are eligible to have the previously withdrawn service reinstated. Time spent on FMLA during the reemployment period will count toward the 60-day work requirements to reinstate the canceled previous service credit.

If you were vested and took a disbursement of your DC after June 30, 2009, your service credit is not canceled.

If you took a disbursement prior to July 1, 2018, you must return to a TRF Hybrid- or PERF Hybrid-covered position for ½ year as defined by the Plan.

If you were not vested and took a disbursement of your DC after June 30, 2018, your service credit is not canceled.
4.7 Creditable Service

The most common form of service credit is earned in a position covered by TRF Hybrid or PERF Hybrid. “Creditable service” is the amount of time that can be counted when calculating your monthly TRF retirement benefit. Other methods may be used to earn service credit, some with and some without cost.

- You will earn 1 year of service credit for working 120 or more days in a fiscal year (July 1 to June 30).
- You will earn ½ year of credit for working between 60 and 119 days in a fiscal year.
- Any time worked during a work day entitles you to a full day of service credit.
- You may also earn creditable service when on jury duty, sick leave, or while receiving workers’ compensation.
- You may not earn more than 1 year of service credit during a fiscal year.

4.7.1 Transfer of Creditable Service into TRF Hybrid

If you are a teacher who became a member of TRF Hybrid prior to July 1, 1981, and has out-of-state service prior to July 1, 1981, you have specific rights of transfer. Up to 8 years of out-of-state service may be added to your creditable service at no cost to you, provided that you have at least 10 years of creditable Indiana teaching service (not including PERF Hybrid or military service). You may not use this service to receive any additional benefits from another state retirement system or the federal retirement system. If you have not earned 10 years of creditable service, the out-of-state credit is held in pending status until you attain the requisite 10 years.

If you have prior service in PERF Hybrid you may transfer creditable and/or eligibility service earned with PERF Hybrid into TRF Hybrid. This transfer will occur at the time of retirement.

4.7.2 Transfer of Creditable Service from TRF Hybrid

If you terminated employment with TRF Hybrid you may transfer creditable service earned with TRF Hybrid to PERF Hybrid. Transfer will occur at the time of retirement.

4.8 Omitted Contributions and Substitute Teaching Service

If you are a TRF Hybrid member who previously taught part-time or as a substitute, you may be qualified to have this service added to your account. Before becoming a member of TRF Hybrid, your employer would not have withheld contributions. However, upon becoming a member, this first year of substitute service may be actuarially purchased in order to count as creditable service. If your substitute service was after becoming a TRF Hybrid member, the service would be treated as omitted contributions.

There are two ways you can claim this service:

1. You can pay the 3 percent mandatory contributions on a post-tax basis.
2. Your employer can pay the 3 percent mandatory contributions on a pre-tax basis. This means your employer would have to submit the missing service, wages and contributions.

Here are the steps you must take:
1. Fill out the *Member Information* portion of the *Verify Your Prior Indiana Service Credit* form available on the *Teachers’ Retirement Fund (TRF) Forms* page on the INPRS website.

2. Send the form to your former employer. Your employer will confirm your teaching service.

3. Your employer will send the completed form and payment to INPRS.

### 4.9 Additional Service Credit

As a member of TRF Hybrid or PERF Hybrid, you have the option to buy extra service credit. Buying extra service credit gives you a higher monthly retirement benefit. It also may let you retire earlier. However, **you cannot buy extra service credit in order to vest with TRF or PERF.**

There are three other ways you can purchase creditable service:

1. Out-of-state service credit,
2. Additional service credit, and
3. Private school service credit,
4. Military service that is not awarded under state pension law or USERRA.

**NOTE:** These types of service do not count for vesting purposes. They can be used when INPRS calculates your monthly retirement benefit. You must already be vested to use these types of service credit.

### 4.9.1 Basic Qualifications

As an eligible active member of TRF Hybrid and PERF Hybrid you can purchase 1 year of additional service credit for each 5 years of TRF Hybrid- or PERF Hybrid-covered employment. To purchase service credit, you must:

1. Be currently employed in a TRF Hybrid- or PERF Hybrid-covered position
2. Have at least 10 years of TRF Hybrid- or PERF Hybrid-covered employment

Information about the types of service credit available for purchase, specific qualifications for eligibility to purchase service credit, and the process for purchasing service credit are covered in this section of this handbook. Internal Revenue Code Section 415 purchase limits may apply.

### 4.9.2 Cost to Purchase Service Credit

If you want to increase your benefits you may purchase service credit. INPRS will provide you with the cost to purchase the service.

The calculation of the actual cost to purchase service credit is valid for 30 days. If the purchase is not completed in 30 days, the cost must be recalculated.

If you are interested in getting an estimate of how much it could cost you to purchase extra service credit, you can do one of the following:

- Access your account at myINPRSretirement.org or visit the Online Calculators page of the INPRS website for an estimate.
4.9.3 Purchase Additional Service Credit

Forms which need to be completed and submitted for purchasing service credit are available on the Teachers' Retirement Fund (TRF) Member Forms page of the INPRS website.

You may purchase additional service credit that can be used toward the calculation of your retirement benefit if you meet the following criteria:

- Have worked in similar teaching position(s) in another state.
- Have worked in similar teaching position(s) in an accredited Indiana private school.
- Have substitute teacher service that is not otherwise included under membership eligibility as outlined in the Membership > Eligibility section of this handbook.
- Have prior military service that was not credited under USERRA or other state pension law.
- Have 10 years of creditable TRF Hybrid and/or PERF Hybrid service.

The purchase cost of additional service is calculated based on your age, years of service, and salary. Therefore, in general, the sooner you make such a purchase, the lower the purchase cost.

You may purchase service credit after you have been in the Fund for a period of 1 year, unless the purchased service is classified as “Air Time”. For more information on “Air Time”, see the Purchase "Air Time" Service Credit section of this member handbook.

You cannot use any purchased service for vesting purposes. If you have not earned 10 years of creditable service, the purchased service credit is held in pending status until you attain the requisite 10 years. Therefore, to become eligible to retire and receive the retirement benefit, you still must have 10 years of creditable and/or eligible TRF Hybrid-/PERF Hybrid-covered service. The additional purchased service will be used in the calculation of the retirement benefit.

More information regarding TRF’s process for purchasing service can be found in 35 IAC 14-5-09. Or by contacting the Member Service Center at (844) GO-INPRS (844-464-6777).

**NOTE:** Minimum service requirements may apply. If you separate from service before vesting, the cost of the additional service plus interest will be returned to you.

**Example**

If you buy 1 year of service credit you will end up with 11 years of service when you complete your 10 years in the TRF Hybrid Plan.

**Purchase Out-of-State Service Credit**

You can earn creditable out-of-state service with TRF Hybrid if you:
Service Credit

- Taught in another state at a public school in which service is covered by a retirement fund comparable to TRF Hybrid (10 years of creditable service, not including PERF Hybrid or military service—service will not be added until you have 10 years of service),
- Taught military dependents on a regular and continuing basis. Service could be inside or outside of the U.S.
- Were on a leave of absence from service, or
- Served at a federal agency in a position comparable to teaching in Indiana.

**NOTE:** You cannot use your out-of-state service to receive any additional benefits from another state or federal retirement system. If you qualify for a benefit from another state or federal retirement system, you cannot use that service to get creditable service with TRF Hybrid.

If you became a member of TRF before July 1, 1981, you may add up to 8 years of out-of-state service at no cost to you.

To qualify, you must:

- be vested with TRF (10 years of creditable service, not including PERF or military service), and
- have earned your out-of-state service before July 1, 1981.

Service at a federal agency in a position comparable to teaching in Indiana may also qualify. If you do not qualify for free transfer of out-of-state credit as explained above in the Transfer of Creditable Service into TRF section, the cost to purchase this type of service is calculated actuarially. See the Cost to Purchase Service Credit section of this handbook for details.

**NOTE:** If you taught out of the country, but not to military dependents, you may be able to purchase service credit.

To claim out-of-state service, you must do the following:

1. Complete the Verify Your out of State Teaching Service Credit form available on the Teachers’ Retirement Fund (TRF) Member Forms page of the INPRS website.
2. Send the form to the out-of-state school where you worked.
3. Your former employer (school) sends the form to the retirement system in that state.
4. You send a copy of your latest teaching contract to INPRS.
5. The other state’s retirement system verifies your service.
6. INPRS sends you the cost to buy the additional creditable service in TRF.

If you want to purchase out-of-state credit it is necessary to notify INPRS. You must include the specific years to be purchased and a check for the amount of purchase. Out-of-state service that entitles you to a benefit in another state system or any federal retirement system cannot be used in Indiana.
Service Credit

Allow a minimum of 60 days for INPRS to receive the out-of-state verification form from the out-of-state system.

Ordinarily, teaching out of the country does not qualify for service credit unless the teaching was in a military-dependent school covered by the U.S. Department of Defense or teaching was conducted during a qualified leave of absence granted for exchange teaching. However, out-of-country teaching comparable to Indiana teaching service may be purchased.

For military dependent teaching service, Form NA 13037-9-85 is required for proper verification. This form is not available online and must be requested by contacting:

National Personnel Records
Civilian Personnel Records
1 Archives Drive
St. Louis, MO 63138
(314) 801-0800

Purchase Private School Service Credit

You may purchase private school teaching service under IC 5-10.4-4-5 if the service was performed in an accredited private school in Indiana. The cost to purchase this service is calculated actuarially. See the Cost to Purchase Service Credit section of this handbook for details. The private school where you taught must be accredited. Check the Indiana Department of Education to verify if your school qualifies.

Purchase Substitute Teacher Service Credit

You may purchase substitute teaching that is not otherwise included under the normal eligibility provisions under IC 5-10.4-4-6. The cost to purchase this service is calculated actuarially as described in the Cost to Purchase Service Credit section of this handbook. See the Substitute Teaching section of this handbook for details for qualifying for TRF membership as a substitute teacher.

Purchase Military Service Credit

If you do not otherwise qualify for military service credit, you may purchase up to 2 years of active duty military service. You may purchase service for time spent in the military if you meet the following criteria:

- Served in the United States Armed Services in Active Duty for at least six months.
- Have at least one year of service in the Fund.
- Were honorably discharged.

**NOTE:** The purchase of service for time spent in the military is limited to a maximum of 2 years.

This is added to any other military service credit that is granted by law.

You can buy service after you have been in the fund for 1 year. To determine the cost of buying this military service, contact the Member Service Center at (844) GO-INPRS (844-464-6777). For TDD call (800)
579-5708. CSRs are available weekdays (excluding weekends and state-designated holidays) from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET.

_Service Credit Purchase Estimate Calculators_ are available on the Online Calculators page of the INPRS website or by logging into your online account at myINPRSretirement.org.

If you purchase service, it cannot be used for vesting. You need 10 years of actual TRF-covered service to qualify to retire and receive a retirement benefit.

The cost to purchase this service is calculated actuarially. See the _Cost to Purchase Service Credit_ section of this handbook for details.

**Purchase “Air Time” Service Credit**

Generally, once vested, you can buy an additional 1 year of service credit for every 5 years of actual earned service. For example, if you have 15 years of service, you could buy an additional 3 years of credit. Your retirement benefit would be calculated using a total of 18 years. This service cost depends upon your age, years of service, and salary. You can pay for the service in a lump sum or annual payments over 5 years.

The cost to purchase this service is calculated actuarially. See the _Cost to Purchase Service Credit_ section of this handbook for details. Payment for this purchase can be made in a lump sum or amortized over 5 years.

**NOTE:** You may purchase whole years of service credit up to a maximum of 1 year for each 5 years served. In addition, you may purchase partial years in increments of 1/12 (monthly increments) not to exceed a maximum of 1 year out of every 5 years of service.

**Example 1**

If you have 15 years of service, you would be able to purchase an additional 3 years of credit. Your retirement benefit would be calculated using a total of 18 years.

**Example 2**

If you have 10 years of service credit in total between the TRF and PERF plans, you are eligible to purchase Air Time Service Credit.

If you have 6 years of service in the TRF plan and 4 years of service in the PERF plan, you are eligible to purchase up to 2 years of service.

**4.9.4 Purchase Service in another Plan**

You can take money out of your DC to buy service credit in another government retirement plan and ordinarily you would withdraw the _exact_ amount. The money ordinarily would be paid as a “trustee-to-trustee” transfer to the other governmental plan. This means INPRS would transfer the funds to the other government plan and you would not receive a cash payment.

If you should return to a TRF Hybrid-covered position, you would need to buy back the service credit from the other government plan to have it count toward your retirement.
4.9.5 Purchase Service Credit with Rollover from another Plan

You may pay INPRS for service in the form of a rollover from another tax-deferred retirement plan, as defined in the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 (EGTRRA). This purchase may be done as a “trustee-to-trustee transfer” (moving retirement assets from one managing institution or custodian directly to another) or a rollover and should not be for more than the cost to purchase the service. Any excess amount is deposited in your TRF Rollover Pre-Tax Contributions account.

NOTE: If you end service before you qualify to retire, INPRS will refund the price you paid for the extra service. This amount will include interest. You will receive this refund if you withdraw your DC account. INPRS decides the amount based on the actuarial cost. If you take a refund or any funds for purchased service, you may return to a TRF-covered position. If you re-employ and want to purchase service, you will have to start over with the service purchase process.

4.10 Service in a Dual Position

The 35 IAC 14-4-2 dictates that whenever an individual is employed by the same employer in a position which requires the performance of covered and non-covered service, contributions shall be paid from the portion of the annual compensation attributable to the covered service.

NOTE: Service in a Dual Position can also have a meaning in relation to service credit. Working in a TRF Hybrid- and PERF Hybrid-covered position simultaneously can only earn one year of service for the same period of time.

4.11 Service Credit Inquiry

Per IC 5-10.4-5-17, if you believe an error was made in calculating the creditable service, you may request a re-examination of the benefit at any time. You may only appeal the re-examination decision under the Indiana Administrative Orders and Procedures Act if the appeal is requested within 6 years after the re-examination of your creditable service or benefit.
INPRS offers a variety of investment options from which you can choose to invest your Defined Contribution (DC) and/or Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution (RSA) funds.

INPRS is unable to provide investment advice. The investment fund performance fact sheets available on the Investment Fact Sheets page of the INPRS website give you more information on each of the funds. You may want to talk to a trusted financial advisor or review the Investing 101 page on the INPRS website.

### 5.1 Defined Contribution Account

The DC account portion of TRF Hybrid was previously known as an Annuity Savings Account (ASA).

Your DC account is money set aside for you to use after you retire. The funds in this account come from money your employer contributed on your behalf, and/or money you contributed, and money earned from investing your account:

- mandatory contributions
- voluntary contributions (pre- and post-tax)
- investment profits and losses

As a new member, you will receive a welcome package with instructions on how to log in to your account at myINPRSretirement.org.

**NOTE:** As of January 1, 2018, the voluntary pre-tax contribution election is no longer available for new enrollment. However, if you enrolled in the Voluntary Pre-Tax Contribution account prior to January 1, 2018, you continue to make contributions and upon re-employment with the same employer you are required to continue with the voluntary pre-tax deductions. **Enrollment in the plan is irrevocable.**

You can view or change your investment options by accessing your account at myINPRSretirement.org to complete your investment direction elections. For more information contact the Member Service Center at (844) GO-INPRS (844-464-6777). For TDD call (800) 579-5708. CSRs are available weekdays (excluding weekends and state-designated holidays) from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET. You can complete your requests via phone with a CSR.

Your DC account is subject to market risk when your funds are invested.

**NOTE:** The Guaranteed Fund ceased to be an investment option as of January 1, 2017. If you had funds invested in the Guaranteed Fund, those funds were transferred into the Stable Value Fund. See the Stable Value Fund section for more information. As with all your investment elections, you can choose to move all or part of your Stable Value Fund to other investment options.

You can choose from several available options. As of July 1, 2010, upon enrollment in TRF, you are enrolled in the Target Date Fund (default) based on your projected retirement date. Your DC will continue with this investment option until you make other selections. You can log in to your
myINPRSretirement.org account to complete your investment direction elections, or contact the Member Service Center at (844) GO-INPRS (844-464-6777) where you can complete your request via phone with a CSR.

NOTE: If you do not submit your choices to INPRS, your DC will automatically be invested in a Target Date Fund based on your projected date of retirement.

You direct INPRS to invest a portion of your account (present balance and future contributions) into any or all of the investment funds in at least 1 percent increments. Or, you can invest current contributions and new contributions separately. This means you can direct both current and future contributions, or leave current balances as they are and direct future contributions only.

5.1.1 Rollover Funds to TRF Hybrid
If you have a rollover account with TRF Hybrid and/or TRF My Choice: Retirement Savings, INPRS must keep the accounts separate. The funds are shown as Rollover Pre-Tax Contributions or RSA (in Investments) in your account at myINPRSretirement.org. Your rollover account can be invested as outlined in the Investment Options for Your Defined Contribution and RSA Funds section of this handbook. The amount must be at least 1 percent of your total balance and you can change it daily.

5.2 Investment Considerations
1. You will be able to view daily valuations of your DC funds and RSA funds and make daily changes to your investment allocations for these funds.

2. The investment direction can cover your current DC and/or RSA balances and all future contributions or just future contributions for these funds.

3. If you are newly enrolled in TRF your DC contributions will be invested only in a Target Date Fund until you select other options through myINPRSretirement.org. You may also contact the Member Service Center (844) GO-INPRS (844-464-6777). For TDD call 1-800-579-5708. CSRs are available weekdays (excluding weekends and state-designated holidays) from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET to complete your investment direction requests via phone.

4. If you return to a TRF-covered position after having a break in service, generally, you will have the same investment elections as when you left, regardless of whether or not you elected to withdraw your DC funds. You can view or change your investment options by accessing your account at myINPRSretirement.org. You may also contact the Member Service Center to complete your investment direction requests via phone with a CSR.

5.2.1 Investment Options for Defined Contribution and RSA Funds
To view or change investment options, log in to your.myINPRSretirement.org account and complete your investment direction elections. You can call the INPRS Member Service Center at (844) GO-INPRS (844-464-6777). For TDD call 1-800-579-5708. CSRs are available weekdays (excluding weekends and state-designated holidays) from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET.
Several options are available from which you may choose. Upon enrollment in TRF, you are enrolled in the Target Date Fund based on your projected date of retirement. Your funds will continue in this investment option until you make another selection.

You direct INPRS to invest a portion of your account (present balance and future contributions) into any or all of the investment funds in at least one percent increments. Or, you can invest current contributions and new contributions separately. This means you can direct both current and future contributions, or leave current balances as they are and direct future contributions only.

TRF Hybrid Plan allows you to manage your retirement benefits with self-directed investment options. You may decide how to invest contributions posted to your account and choose any one or more of the funds available through TRF.

You can decide how you want your DC and RSA (Rollover Pre-Tax Contributions) funds to be invested with these options. Each option has a fund fact sheet associated with it to more fully explain the investment.

- **Fixed Income Fund**
- **Inflation-Linked Fixed Income Fund**
- **International Equity Fund**
- **Large Cap Equity Index Fund**
- **Money Market Fund**
- **Small/Mid Cap Equity Fund**
- **Stable Value Fund**
- **Target Date Funds** (including the Retirement Fund)

**Stable Value Fund**

The Stable Value Fund is an investment option for TRF and PERF members. If you had funds in the Guaranteed Fund and did not elect to move those funds to other options prior to January 1, 2017, your Guaranteed Fund money was moved to the Stable Value Fund at that time. See the Stable Value Fund Fact sheet on the INPRS website for details. You may change your investment elections at any time by accessing your account at myINPRSretirement.org.

**Target Date Funds**

Target Date Funds are the default fund for new members who have not elected other fund options. The goal of the Target-Date Funds is to be a “one-stop shop”. Target Date Funds consider the year in which you plan to retire in order to provide appropriate risk diversification. See the Target Date Funds Fact sheet on the INPRS website for details. You may change your investment elections at any time by accessing your account at myINPRSretirement.org.

**Retirement Fund**

The Retirement Fund contains your DC and/or RSA contributions in the situation where you elected a Target Date Fund, but did not retire by the time you reached your chosen Target Date Fund year. At any
time, you may elect to move your contributions (DC and/or RSA) into another Target Date Fund or any of the other available investment offerings.

If you are currently invested in the Retirement Fund but, based on your age, you should be in one of the new Target Date Funds (2015 or 2065), your Retirement Fund balances (DC and/or RSA) will be moved into the appropriate Target Date Fund year, as applicable.

### 5.2.2 Defined Contribution and RSA Allocation Changes

As outlined in this handbook, you can change the amount of your DC and/or RSA funds you invest in each investment fund. The amount must be at least 1 percent of your total balance and can be changed daily.

It is important to ask yourself these three questions.

1. **What is my risk tolerance?** This means how comfortable you are with the account value rising and falling with the markets.
2. **What is my age?** If you are younger you may be able to take on more market risk since stock losses can be made up over time. If you are closer to retirement you may want to invest in more stable value investments that provide regular income.
3. **What is my portfolio diversification?** This means spreading your money among different types of investments to reduce overall risk.

**NOTE:** If you do not choose your DC investment option(s), your DC will default to a Target Date Fund based your projected date of retirement.

### 5.3 Suspension of Membership

See the *Suspension of Membership* section of the *Withdrawals, Distributions, and Loans* section of this handbook for additional details.

#### 5.3.1 Staying Invested

When you leave covered employment, you can leave your DC and/or RSA (Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution) funds invested with TRF and can continue to invest in any of the available options. If you have been inactive for 5 years your accounts will be suspended. Inactive means no wages and contributions have been reported for a 5-year period.

**NOTE:** The implementation of the 5-year suspension began on July 1, 2016, for all DC funds inactive for 5 years or more on that date going forward.

If your account has less than $1,000 invested, the funds may be disbursed to you in a lump sum.

If your account has $1,000 or more invested, you retain access to your account and the ability to direct investments. Your suspended account will remain invested per your investment elections and will be charged an administrative fee.

The exception to this is if you leave covered employment with TRF but stay employed with the same employer.
See the Less Than 10 Years of Service Credit section of this handbook for additional information regarding suspension and distribution.

5.3.2 Rollover Funds for Inactive Member

As of July 1, 2018, if you are an inactive member, you may roll over funds from a qualifying IRA or retirement plan into the TRF Hybrid plan and continue to direct your RSA fund elections as outlined in the Investment Options for Defined Contribution and RSA Funds section of this handbook. Complete the Transfer Funds from an Outside Account into a TRF RSA available on the Teachers’ Retirement Fund (TRF) Member Forms page on the INPRS website.
6.1 Withdrawals
Withdrawal is a term used in reference to leaving TRF for a reason other than death or disability without regard to being vested or not vested.

If you separate from service in a TRF Hybrid-covered, you may apply for a distribution of your DC Account. See the Distributions section of this member handbook for details.

You also have the option to leave your contributions invested with TRF. They can be withdrawn at any time. See the Distributions section of this member handbook for details and the Income Tax Considerations section of this handbook for details about taxes that may be levied on early distributions.

If you leave a TRF Hybrid-covered position for a PERF Hybrid-covered position without the required separation of service (when a separation of service is required), you cannot take distribution of your Defined Contribution (DC) account. If you leave TRF Hybrid-covered employment for employment other than TRF or PERF, you may be eligible to receive a distribution of your DC account.

6.2 Distributions
The following sections address taking distribution of your TRF funds.

6.2.1 Defined Contribution Distribution
If you are no longer in a TRF-covered position and have completely separated from your employer for at least 30 days, you may take disbursement of the balance of your DC (in the form of a distribution or rollover to another Qualified Retirement Plan). As of January 1, 2021, if you are at least 59 ½ years of age and are age and service eligible for normal retirement, you do not have to wait 30 days after separation in order to take a distribution from your DC account.

These disbursement amounts consist of:

- The 3 percent mandatory contributions
- Any voluntary contributions (if applicable)
- All interest and earnings credited to the account
- Any payments made to purchase service credit unless you are vested and therefore eligible to receive a future retirement benefit.

DC disbursements are regulated by the following conditions since July 1, 2018:

- If you continue uninterrupted employment in any capacity (full-time or part-time) in any agency or department of your current employer, regardless of whether the new position is covered under TRF or not, you will not be considered separated from service. There is an exception that allows you to withdrawal your DC without a separation under 35 IAC 1.2-5-1.3.
Withdrawals, Distributions, and Loans

NOTE: As of January 1, 2021, if you are at least 59 ½ years of age and are age and service eligible for normal retirement, you do not have to wait 30 days after separation in order to withdraw from your DC account. In that case, you may take an in-service withdrawal or a withdrawal after separation.

- If you are re-employed in a TRF-covered position within 30 days from the date of termination, **you are not eligible for a distribution.** As of January 1, 2021, this applies to individuals who are not age and service eligible for retirement at the time of their distribution.
- Subject to the requirements within Indiana and Federal law and as described above, you may withdraw your DC and retain the service credit.
- If you are not vested and your account has been inactive for 5 years from the date of the last contribution, your suspended account will remain invested per your investment elections but will be charged an administrative fee.

**Distribution of Defined Contributions after Employer Separation**

If you are no longer in a TRF Hybrid-covered position and you are not receiving a retirement benefit, a disability retirement benefit, or are not eligible to receive an unreduced retirement benefit you can take disbursement of your DC balance if you left your TRF Hybrid- or PERF Hybrid-covered position more than 30 days ago.

As of July 1, 2011, if you are vested and are eligible for early retirement you may withdraw your DC, without forfeiting your retirement benefit, as long as you have separated from service for more than 30 days.

As of January 1, 2021, if you are age and service eligible for normal retirement and separate from employment, you do not have to wait 30 days after separation for your disbursement.

**Distribution of Defined Contributions without Employer Separation**

As of January 1, 2021, if you are an active member who:

- Are age and service eligible for normal retirement and
- Are at least 59½ years of age

you can take an in-service withdrawal from your DC account. No separation of service is required.

If you are a member of TRF Hybrid or PERF Hybrid who is not age and service eligible for a retirement benefit, and are:

1. No longer working in a TRF Hybrid- or PERF Hybrid-covered service with an employer;
2. Actively working with the same employer; and
3. Working in a non-TRF- or non-PERF-covered position,

you may suspend and take distribution of the amounts in your DC if you are at least 62 years of age at the time you apply for the distribution.
Example

Josh has worked in a TRF-covered position for four years. He is promoted to a non-TRF covered position with the same employer. When Josh is 62 years of age, he may take disbursement of his DC so long as he is not working in a TRF- or PERF-covered position and is not age and service eligible to receive a TRF or PERF retirement benefit.

NOTE: You are immediately vested in the DC account and contributions are credited to your account. However, you can only withdraw funds from your DC account as distributions when you separate from TRF-covered employment or at retirement. If you are re-employed in a TRF-covered position within 30 days from the date of termination, you are not eligible for a distribution. You must fully separate from your employer in order to withdraw your funds. As of January 1, 2021, if you are eligible for normal retirement you do not have to wait the 30 days. Additionally, as of January 1, 2021, if you are at least 59 ½ years of age and are age and service eligible for normal retirement, you may take a distribution from your DC account without separating service.

Voluntary Member Contributions

The following sections explain possible distribution options for voluntary member contributions.

Voluntary Pre-Tax Contributions

As of July 1, 2018, if you are enrolled in the Voluntary Pre-Tax Contributions account, you are eligible to take disbursement of your pre-tax contributions once you have separated from service from your TRF Hybrid- or PERF Hybrid-covered position.

NOTE: The Voluntary Pre-Tax Contribution option is no longer available for enrollment as of January 1, 2018. If you elected this option prior to January 1, 2018, you will continue make pre-tax contributions until you retire or separate from service. This election is irrevocable.

Because these funds have not been taxed, they will be taxed along with any earnings or interest accrued at the time of distribution.

Voluntary Post-Tax Contributions

Because these funds have already been taxed, they will not be taxed again; however, it is important to know that any earnings or interest accrued on these funds is still taxable at the time of distribution.

If you are not vested at the time of distribution, the non-taxable contributions will be paid directly to you in a lump sum or you can elect to roll over the non-taxable amount in some cases. See the Distribution Payment Options section of this handbook for details regarding taxable and non-taxable distributions.

6.3 IRC 401(a) 17 Limits

The Internal Revenue Code (IRC) makes the following point regarding particular accounts:
As a member of TRF you are subject to the annual compensation limit under Sections 401(a)(17), 404(l), 408(k)(3)(C), and 408(k)(6)(D)(ii) of the IRC. These limits are subject to change on an annual basis.

**NOTE:** The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA ‘93) states that the law should be adopted by July 1, 1993; however, INPRS did not adopt this law until 1996.

*Table 1 lists the compensation limits for INPRS (applicable to all funds):*

**Table 1: Compensation Limits**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Max. Comp. Limit</th>
<th>Max. Comp. for OBRA ‘93 (Members of the Fund Prior to 7/1/1996)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/1/1994 – 6/30/1995</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$242,280.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/1995 – 6/30/1996</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$247,600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/1996 – 6/30/1997</td>
<td>$150,000.00</td>
<td>$247,600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/1997 – 6/30/1998</td>
<td>$160,000.00</td>
<td>$261,600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/1998 – 6/30/1999</td>
<td>$160,000.00</td>
<td>$265,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/1999 – 6/30/2000</td>
<td>$160,000.00</td>
<td>$270,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/2000 – 6/30/2001</td>
<td>$170,000.00</td>
<td>$275,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/2001 – 6/30/2002</td>
<td>$170,000.00</td>
<td>$285,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/2002 – 6/30/2003</td>
<td>$200,000.00</td>
<td>$295,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/2003 – 6/30/2004</td>
<td>$200,000.00</td>
<td>$300,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/2004 – 6/30/2005</td>
<td>$205,000.00</td>
<td>$305,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/2005 – 6/30/2006</td>
<td>$210,000.00</td>
<td>$315,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/2006 – 6/30/2007</td>
<td>$220,000.00</td>
<td>$325,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/2007 – 6/30/2008</td>
<td>$225,000.00</td>
<td>$335,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/2008 – 6/30/2009</td>
<td>$230,000.00</td>
<td>$345,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/2009 – 6/30/2010</td>
<td>$245,000.00</td>
<td>$360,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/2010 – 6/30/2011</td>
<td>$245,000.00</td>
<td>$360,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/2011 – 6/30/2012</td>
<td>$245,000.00</td>
<td>$360,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/2012 – 6/30/2013</td>
<td>$250,000.00</td>
<td>$360,000.00*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/2013 – 6/30/2014</td>
<td>$255,000.00</td>
<td>$360,000.00*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/2014 – 6/30/2015</td>
<td>$260,000.00</td>
<td>$360,000.00*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/2015 – 6/30/2016</td>
<td>$265,000.00</td>
<td>$360,000.00*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/2016 – 6/30/2017</td>
<td>$265,000.00</td>
<td>$360,000.00*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/2017 – 6/30/2018</td>
<td>$270,000.00</td>
<td>$360,000.00*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/2018 – 6/30/2019</td>
<td>$275,000.00</td>
<td>$360,000.00*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/2019 – 6/30/2020</td>
<td>$280,000.00</td>
<td>$360,000.00*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/2020 – 6/30/2021</td>
<td>$285,000.00</td>
<td>$360,000.00*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The IRS set a higher level but INPRS reserved the right and is permitted to keep the limit at $360K during the years indicated.
6.3.1 Distribution of a Rollover into TRF Hybrid

See the Rollover Funds into TRF Hybrid section of this handbook for details about rolling funds into your TRF Rollover Pre-Tax Contributions account.

6.3.2 Voluntary Withdrawal of Rollover Funds Other than at Retirement

You may make a lump sum withdrawal of your Rollover Pre-Tax Contributions balance at any time prior to retirement by contacting INPRS.

At retirement, you may additionally withdraw your Rollover Savings Account in accordance with Defined Contribution Account Options available at retirement, including deferral.

6.3.3 Suspension of Membership

Defined Contribution Distribution Request

If you are no longer employed in a TRF Hybrid- or PERF Hybrid-covered position and are not eligible for an unreduced retirement benefit or a disability retirement benefit you may suspend your membership and may take disbursement of the balance of your DC and/or Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution accounts once separated for at least 30 days. See Section 6.2.1 for more information on distributions.

If you are vested, not retired, not currently employed in a TRF Hybrid- or PERF Hybrid-covered position, and are transferring TRF or PERF creditable service to another governmental retirement plan you may suspend membership in order to withdraw your DC and/or Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds to purchase creditable service in the other governmental retirement plan. See the Purchase Service in another Plan section of this handbook for details. See Section 6.2.1 for more information on distributions.

If you are vested, meeting all other conditions, you may take disbursement of your DC and/or Rollover Pre-Tax Contributions even if you are eligible for early retirement without forfeiting your retirement benefit. You retain the right to receive a monthly retirement benefit [Defined Benefit (DB)] upon reaching age and service eligibility.

If you have moved from a TRF- or PERF-covered position to a non-covered position, you may be eligible to withdraw your DC without separating from employment. To be eligible to withdraw the DC, you must meet the following sets of qualifications:

- You must be at least age 62 and you meet the following additional requirements:
  - You are no longer in a TRF or PERF covered position with an employer
  - You cannot be age and service eligible for a retirement benefit AND
  - You must be in a non-covered position with the TRF or PERF employer

- You must be at least age 59 ½ and you meet the following additional requirement:
  - You are age and service eligible for normal retirement

Less Than 10 Years of Service Credit

If you have less than 10 years of service credit you will continue to earn interest and can continue to move your funds into and out of the various investment options. If you are inactive (no wage and contribution reporting) for 5 years your account will be suspended. If your account is suspended with a balance of less
Withdrawals, Distributions, and Loans

than $1,000, the balance may be disbursed to you. If your account balance is in excess of $1,000 will remain invested per your investment elections and will be charged an administrative fee.

The exception to this is if you leave covered employment with TRF but stay employed with the same employer. In such a circumstance a covered to non-covered life event would be entered by your employer to prevent a distribution (automatic or otherwise) of contributions.

6.3.4 Distribution Payment Options

When you apply for DC and/or rollover Pre-Tax Contributions distributions, you must choose how to receive the payments.

Direct Rollover

Taxable Portion

You may elect to have all or part of the taxable portion of your DC account paid in the form of a direct rollover into an eligible 401(a), 403(b), or governmental 457(b) plan, or Traditional IRA, which has provisions allowing it to accept the rollover on your behalf.

Except in the case of a Roth IRA, this option defers any taxes owed on the DC balance.

If you choose to roll over only part of the taxable amount, the portion not rolled over is paid directly to you (less the mandatory 20 percent withholding for federal income tax).

If you choose to take a rollover distribution and do not complete the rollover by the 60th day following the day on which you receive the distribution, your distribution may be subject to taxes and/or penalties unless you qualify for a waiver. You should consult a tax professional for waiver qualifications.

Non-Taxable Portion

You may choose to have all or part of the non-taxable portion of your DC paid as a direct rollover into a qualified plan. The percentage of taxable to non-taxable funds that are rolled over must reflect the same percentage as currently in the DC account. In other words, it cannot be all taxable or non-taxable unless the account only contains taxable funds. Those plans include a 403(b) plan, or Traditional or Roth IRA. If you roll over only part of the non-taxable amount, the portion not rolled over is paid directly to you.

Paid Directly to You

Taxable Portion

You may elect to have the total amount of the taxable portion of your DC account (less the mandatory 20 percent withholding for federal income tax) paid directly to you.

Non-Taxable Portion

If you take the full distribution of your DC account, the full amount of taxable and non-taxable funds in your DC will be distributed directly to you.

You will receive a 1099-R after you receive your distribution. By law, January 31 is the latest date 1099-Rs can be mailed.
TRF will withhold 20 percent from your withdrawal of the taxable portion paid to you or to your surviving spouse. This is done whether or not the IRS imposes a 10 percent penalty.

**Tax Penalty – Early Withdrawal of Your Defined Contribution Account**

You may be subject to an additional 10 percent federal tax penalty on your DC account if you have not reached the age of 59½ at the time of distribution and you do not meet any other exception. By January 31 of the year after you receive your distribution, you will receive a 1099-R.

### 6.4 CARES Act

The CARES Act, federal legislation which became effective March 27, 2020 suspended required minimum distributions for the calendar year 2020 for defined contribution plans and allowed states to provide for COVID-related distributions, provided certain requirements were met. Through an Indiana Executive Order, INPRS allowed COVID related distributions pursuant to the CARES act for TRF My Choice, PERF My Choice, PERF Hybrid DC accounts, TRF Hybrid DC Accounts, and LEDC Accounts. If you qualified for one of these distributions and took one of these distributions and you have questions about tax consequences, contact your tax advisor.

#### 6.4.1 CARES Act – COVID Qualifications

The CARES Act allows coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2 or COVID 19) distributions for DC plans if:

- Member, spouse, or dependent is diagnosed with SARS-CoV-2 or COVID 19
- The Member experiences adverse financial consequences based on being:
  - Quarantined, furloughed, or laid off due to a SARS-CoV-2 or COVID 19
  - Reduced work hours or unable to work due to child care due to SARS-CoV-2 or COVID 19
  - Closing or reducing business hours for business owned or operated by the person due SARS-CoV-2 or COVID 19
  - Other factors determined by the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury
- Member must certify that they meet one of these requirements in order to receive the distribution
- These distributions are for a limited time only.

### 6.5 Staying Invested

When you leave covered employment, you may leave your DC and/or Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds invested with TRF and may continue to invest in any of the available options. If you have been inactive for 5 years (beginning July 1, 2016) with no wage and contribution reporting your account will be suspended. Your suspended account will remain invested per your investment elections but will be charged an administrative fee.

The exception to this is if you leave covered employment with TRF (or moved from a TRF-covered position to a non-TRF-covered position with the same employer) but stay employed with the same employer. Your account will remain invested per your investment elections but be charged an administrative fee.

### 6.6 Loans

Loans from your TRF DC are not permitted at this time.
Beneficiary refers to the person or institution designated to receive all or part of your Defined Contribution (DC) account upon your death. With certain elections at the time of retirement, you can name a beneficiary(ies) for the defined benefit portion of your benefit amount.

A survivor refers to the person who receives a survivor retirement (pension) benefit upon your death.

7.1 Designating Beneficiaries (Survivors)

Beneficiaries/survivors for your monthly retirement benefit (your DB), as applicable, are assigned at the time you apply for retirement.

For your DC account, it is important to keep your beneficiary information up-to-date. Your beneficiary is the person who will receive your DC and/or Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds, as applicable, after you die. This decision must be made by you. If you do not name a beneficiary for your DC, INPRS will pay it to your estate upon your death.

NOTE: If you name more than one primary or contingent beneficiary for your account, you must choose percentages for each beneficiary that will equal 100 percent total.

NOTE: INPRS must pay your DC and/or Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds, as applicable, to your beneficiary (IC 5-10.4-4-10). No other court orders, levies, or agreements can override your decision.

You may name either single or multiple beneficiaries to receive your DC and/or Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds if death occurs before retirement or after retirement should you defer distribution of your DC and/or Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds, as applicable. You must allocate benefit shares in percentage increments if you designate more than one beneficiary. In lieu of named individual(s), you may also designate a trust or legal entity as your beneficiary.

If you designate more than one primary beneficiary, and a primary beneficiary predeceases you, and you do not complete a new beneficiary designation, the remaining primary beneficiaries will receive an apportioned pro rata share based upon the remaining primary beneficiaries’ allocated percentages of the deceased primary beneficiary’s portion.

You can also designate contingent beneficiaries. Contingent beneficiaries would be paid upon your death only if all primary beneficiaries had pre-deceased you.

You can designate a new beneficiary by logging into your account at myINPRSretirement.org. Failure to update beneficiaries could result in payment being made to a previously designated beneficiary.

Pursuant to IC 5-10.4-4-10, regardless of whether there are court orders, levies, or agreements to the contrary, TRF must distribute death benefits to the designated beneficiary on file with TRF.
Example

Member Xavier designates three primary beneficiaries as follows:

- Ann - 60 percent
- Bob - 30 percent
- Carl - 10 percent

Ann predeceases member Xavier, and member Xavier does not submit a new beneficiary form. Member Xavier had $10,000 in his DC account at the time of his death. Ann’s 60 percent share will be divided between Bob and Carl as follows:

- Bob - $4,500
- Carl - $1,500

The total amount that Bob will receive from member Xavier’s DC account is $7,500. The total amount that Carl will receive from member Xavier’s DC account is $2,500.

7.1.1 Survivor Benefit when Member Is Not Retired

The Indiana Legislature created a TRF survivor benefit for the survivors of TRF members. If you die while in service, your surviving spouse or surviving dependent(s) may be entitled to survivor benefits if you have:

- been married for at least 2 years (they do not have to be consecutive years), and
- at least 8 years of creditable service as a member of the General Assembly, or if
- at least 10 years of service in any other position.

Refer to the Death Benefits section of this handbook for details.

7.2 Changing a Beneficiary after Retirement

You may change your survivor designation and or monthly retirement option without a major life event, after the retirement application has been processed. There is no limit on the number of times a change can be made; however, a fee may be assessed after the first change is processed. Changing your beneficiary or form of DB retirement benefit after retirement must be done through completing forms and sending them to INPRS; those changes cannot be completed through logging into your account online.

You can obtain a benefit estimate prior to authorizing a change. If a living spouse is removed, a divorce decree must be submitted, or the spouse must provide consent. The only limitation is that you may not elect to change to a 5-year guaranteed benefit. TRF will need proof of birth of your new survivor as well as the marriage certificate if a new spouse is being named. If the new survivor is not a spouse, they must meet the age requirements as established by the IRS for a non-spouse joint survivor.
Once the request is approved the change will become effective at the time the completed application has been received. The benefit will be actuarially recalculated using all factors including annuity interest in effect at the time INPRS receives the completed form.

NOTE: Changing a survivor may have a significant impact on your monthly benefit.

NOTE: Marriages are recognized regardless of gender.

The For retirees: Change Your Beneficiary, Survivor Beneficiary and/or Retirement Option form is available on the Teachers' Retirement Fund (TRF) Member Forms page on the INPRS website.

7.3 Divorce

Indiana law prevents assigning TRF benefits. Accordingly, TRF cannot honor any divorce decree which requires it to pay anyone other than you or the named beneficiary. In order to be consistent with the laws governing TRF, and in order to satisfy Indiana’s domestic relations laws, divorce decrees should order you (or the legal beneficiary) to make payments to an ex-spouse rather than ordering TRF to make such payments. In addition, Indiana law prohibits TRF from garnishing your benefit for child support payments.

7.3.1 Qualified Domestic Relations Order (QDRO)

Under state law, benefits in the Fund are exempt from any legal process. Qualified Domestic Relations Order (QDRO) does not apply to TRF. Even though they are the product of federal legislation, which normally supersedes state law, they do not apply to TRF since it is a governmental plan exempt from the QDRO requirements. If you purchase an annuity or roll over funds to another plan outside of INPRS, this may not apply. Consult the administrator for the plan.

7.4 Naming a Trust or Legal Entity as Beneficiary

In certain situations, naming a Trust or Legal entity as beneficiary is possible. Generally, you can leave your DC account death benefit to a trust, but you cannot name a trust for a survivor benefit of your pension benefit. Complete and submit to the address on the form the Change Your Beneficiary as an Active Member available on the Teachers’ Retirement Fund (TRF) Member Forms page of the INPRS website.

There is no restriction on what type of trust you can name as your beneficiary. See the Defined Contribution Account Payment Options section of this handbook for more details.

7.5 Disclaiming a Benefit

Indiana law allows a beneficiary to decline (disclaim) a benefit. The law also decides how the bequest is handled if the beneficiary declines it. For specific information on your situation, contact the Member Service Center at (844) GO-INPRS (844-464-6777). The Disclaimer (State Form 55221) is available from the INPRS website. It must be completed, signed, dated, and submitted to INPRS at the address on the form.
Your retirement benefit has two parts: a monthly retirement benefit, Defined Benefit (DB), and a Defined Contribution (DC) account.

1. You will receive a monthly benefit (DB) from TRF Hybrid for the rest of your life. This benefit is paid for by the State or your employer.

2. You also have a DC. The money in your DC is from the mandatory annual payment (3 percent of your annual salary) paid by contributions from you and/or your employer on your behalf.

Your DC includes any voluntary payments you make and any interest or earnings from investments. Unlike your monthly benefit, you are vested in the DC immediately.

If you are not retired, you can roll over funds from an IRA or other qualified retirement plan into TRF.

**NOTE:** Only transfers of taxable (pre-tax) funds can be accepted by INPRS. Refer to the Rollover Funds into TRF section of this handbook for more information.

### 8.1 Retirement Benefit

No employee contributions are required for the retirement benefit (DB). The cost of the plan is paid for by the participating employers as well as the State, and the benefit is calculated using your final high-5 average salary, service credit, and a statutory defined rate of 1.1 percent \( (0.011) \). This does not consider any age reduction factors for early retirement and/or any retirement options you elect at time of your retirement (e.g., Option A1 – 5-Year Certain and Life, Option B1 – 100% Survivorship, etc.).

**NOTE:** As of January 1, 2018, DC and Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds are no longer included in your retirement benefit. They are handled according to your choices made during completion of the retirement application from your account at myINPRSretirement.org.

### 8.2 Retirement Eligibility

Your eligibility for retirement benefits is determined by two factors:

- **Age**
- **Service credit**

Effective July 1, 2015, in-service retirement age changed from 62 to match regular retirement ages for all plans employing the Rule of 85 (35 IAC 1.2-1-4):

- You are age 65 and have 10 or more years of creditable and/or eligibility service under TRF Hybrid and PERF Hybrid combined.
- You are age 60 and have 15 or more years of creditable and/or eligibility service under TRF Hybrid and PERF Hybrid combined.
You are at least age 55 and your age at retirement plus the total years of service (creditable and/or eligibility) under TRF Hybrid and PERF Hybrid combined equals 85 or more (Rule of 85).

NOTE: If your age or years of service are a combination of years and months, the Rule of 85 still applies. For example, if you are 55 years and 3 months old and have 29 years and 9 months of service, your combined total of age and years of service equals 85. Refer to the Early Retirement with a Reduced Benefit section of this handbook for more details.

8.3 Retirement Ineligibility

If you do not meet the Rule of 85 as defined in the Retirement Eligibility section of this handbook or the other enumerated qualifications, you are not eligible for regular retirement. See the Retirement Options section of this handbook for details about the various types of retirements available and the qualifications for each.

8.4 Retirement Effective Date

Your retirement date will be the first day of the month. Generally, once you decide your last day of work, then your retirement date may be the first day of the next month unless you have chosen to defer. If your birthday is the first day of the month, your birthday will be your retirement date.

The last day you work is normally your “benefit accrual date”. This is your “separation date”, or the last day you are physically at work. This date is used when INPRS calculates your monthly retirement benefit.

Even though your retirement date is the first of the month, you will be paid for any days in the prior month you were not physically in the classroom.

8.5 Retirement Options

Table 2 outlines the available retirement options for TRF Hybrid Plan.

Table 2: Retirement Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Age and Service Requirements*</th>
<th>Benefit Calculation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Regular Retirement with a Full (Unreduced) Benefit          | ▪ Age 65 or older with at least 10 years of service credit,  
▪ Between age 60 and 64 with at least 15 years of service credit, or  
▪ Between age 55 and 59, if age and service credit total at least 85 (Rule of 85) | Average of Highest 5 Years of Annual Compensation x Total Years of Service x 1.1% (0.011)  
See the Regular Retirement with a Full (Unreduced) Benefit section of this handbook for details. |
| Regular Retirement without Employer Separation (Active, In Service) | Meet Age and Service Requirements for Regular Retirement with a Full (Unreduced) Benefit and continue to work in a position not covered by TRF or PERF. | Average of Highest 5 Years of Annual Compensation x Total Years of Service x 1.1% (0.011)  
See the Regular Retirement without Employer Separation (Active, In Service) section of this handbook for details. |
### Option | Age and Service Requirements* | Benefit Calculation
--- | --- | ---
Millie Morgan Retirement | Age 70 or older with at least 20 years of creditable service and still working in your TRF-covered position | Average of Highest 5 Years of Annual Compensation x Total Years of Service x 1.1% (0.011)
* See the Millie Morgan Retirement section of this handbook for details.

| Elected Official Retirement | At least age 55 with at least 20 years of TRF-covered service and continuing to serve in an elected position  
YOUNGER THAN AGE 60 AND DO NOT MEET THE RULE OF 85, THE BENEFIT IS REDUCED FOR EARLY RETIREMENT | Average of Highest 5 Years of Annual Compensation x Total Years of Service x 1.1% (0.011)
* See Table 3: Retirement Age/Percent of Retirement Benefit for reduction percentage for early retirement.
* See the Elected Official Retirement section of this handbook for details.

| Early Retirement with a Reduced Benefit | At least 15 years of service and at least age 50 | Average of Highest 5 Years of Annual Compensation x Total Years of Service x 1.1% (0.011)
* See Table 3: Retirement Age/Percent of Retirement Benefit for reduction percentage for early retirement.
* See the Early Retirement with a Reduced Benefit section of this handbook for details.

| Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) | Not offered to TRF members | N/A

| Disability Retirement | No age requirements  
At least 5 years of service  
Disability confirmed by Social Security | See the Disability Retirement section for details.

| Classroom Disability | You must be out of the classroom for at least six months and not receiving a payment. | See the Classroom Disability section for details.

* You will not receive service credit for earned and unused sick leave even if you received pay for the leave.

### 8.5.1 Regular Retirement with a Full (Unreduced) Benefit

To apply for a regular (unreduced) retirement benefit, you must be:

- age 65 or older with at least 10 years of service credit,
- between age 60 and 64 with at least 15 years of service credit, or
- between age 55 and 59, if age and service credit total at least 85 (Rule of 85)

**NOTE:** If your age or years of service is a combination of years and months, the Rule of 85 still applies. For example, if you are 55 years and 3 months old and have 29 years and 9 months of service. The combined total of age and years of service equals 85. However, you may not be under age 55 to qualify for full benefits.
If you meet the age and service requirements for regular retirement, you will have a few payment options. See the Retirement Benefit Payment Options section of this handbook for details. INPRS uses a different formula to determine your benefit, based on retirement option.

INPRS calculates your annual retirement benefit using the following formula:

\[
\text{Average of Highest 5 Years of Annual Compensation} \times \text{Total Years of Service} \times 1.1\% (0.011)
\]

NOTE: As of July 1, 2019, In Service Retirements (including Millie Morgan Retirements and Elected Official Retirements) can no longer be back dated (retro retirement). However, INPRS is allowing a grace period for applications submitted on or before September 30, 2019, if the retirement date selected is prior to July 1, 2019.

8.5.2 Regular Retirement without Employer Separation (Active, In Service)

If you are a TRF or PERF member who is:

1. No longer working in a TRF Hybrid- or PERF Hybrid-covered service with an employer;
2. Actively working with the same employer and working in a non-TRF Hybrid- or non-PERF Hybrid-covered position,

You are entitled to retire from TRF Hybrid or PERF Hybrid and begin receiving retirement benefits if you are otherwise eligible for retirement and have reached normal retirement age.

See the NOTE regarding legislation effective July 1, 2019, applicable to Millie Morgan Retirements and back dating retirements.

Example

Steve is 60 years of age and has 15 years of TRF service as a state of Indiana employee. Steve is elected as a judge eligible for service in the Judges’ Retirement System (JRS). Steve terminates his previous state of Indiana TRF-covered employment and immediately begins serving as a judge participating in the JRS. Since Steve is age and service eligible for a TRF benefit, has reached normal retirement age, and has terminated his TRF-covered position, he is eligible to begin receiving TRF retirement benefits even though he did not separate from state employment.

8.5.3 Millie Morgan Retirement

If you are at least 70 years of age with at least 20 years of creditable service, you can start receiving your retirement benefit while still working in your TRF Hybrid-covered position.

Once you elect a Millie Morgan Retirement, your election is irrevocable.

If you choose to start receiving your retirement benefit while still working, you will not earn any more service credit toward retirement. You can continue to contribute to your DC but if you choose this option, you cannot withdraw the additional DC contributions made after retirement until you end service.

As a Millie Morgan retiree you are not eligible for a second Retirement if you terminate and later reemploy. However, you can elect to continue to make contributions to your DC.
Retirement Benefits

Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) does not apply to Millie Morgan Retirements because you are continuing to work and draw a salary.

See the NOTE regarding legislation effective July 1, 2019, applicable to Millie Morgan Retirements and back dating retirements.

8.5.4 Elected Official Retirement

Under Indiana law, a person in an elected position who is at least age 55 and has 20 or more years of TRF Hybrid-covered service can begin receiving retirement benefits while continuing to serve in an elected position covered by TRF Hybrid. You must make this election while holding the elected position.

If you choose to begin receiving monthly retirement benefits while working in a TRF Hybrid-covered position you will not earn additional service credit toward retirement; however, you must make an election to continue or discontinue additional contributions to your DC. If you retire under this option you must make the election as part of the online retirement application (elected officials age 55 with 20 years of service) and submit it to INPRS.

If you are younger than age 60 and do not meet the Rule of 85, the benefit is reduced for early retirement.

See the NOTE regarding legislation effective July 1, 2019, applicable to Millie Morgan Retirements and back dating retirements.

8.5.5 Early Retirement with a Reduced Benefit

You can qualify for early retirement with a reduced retirement benefit if you are between the ages of 50 and 59 and have 15 or more years of creditable and/or eligibility service under TRF Hybrid and PERF Hybrid combined.

If you choose to take early retirement, your retirement benefit will remain at a reduced level for life, even after reaching 60 years of age.

If you are entitled to early retirement with reduced benefits, Table 3 illustrates how much the retirement benefit is reduced according to your age:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Retirement Age</th>
<th>Percent of Retirement Benefit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOTE: Notwithstanding all other rules, if you retire effective July 1, 2008, or later and are then re-employed in a TRF- or PERF-covered position within 30 days of the date on which your retirement benefit begins, regardless of age, **benefits will be stopped**. You will be treated as having never retired, and both yours and your employer’s contributions will be due while re-employed. Also, your TRF application for retirement benefits is void if you have an agreement, formal or informal, prior to retirement, with a covered employer to become re-employed in a covered position.

NOTE: By law, if you are eligible to receive retirement benefits but wait to submit a retirement application, TRF can only pay up to 6 months of retroactive benefits.

### 8.5.6 Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP)

The Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) is not offered to TRF members.

### 8.5.7 Disability Retirement

#### Disability Retirement Types

If you have 5 or more years of service in a TRF Hybrid-covered position and you become disabled while an active teacher, you may be eligible for a classroom or disability retirement benefit.

**Classroom Disability**

Refer to the Indiana Codes and the Indiana Administrative Code listed below for clarification on Classroom Disability Benefit eligibility and rules.

- **IC 5-10.4-5-1** Disability Benefit (page 26 of IC)
- **IC 5-10.4-5-2** Calculation of Disability Benefit (page 26 of IC)
- **35 IAC 14-1-13** "In Service", "Active Service", or "serve" defined (page 3 of IAC)

If you are no longer able to teach in a classroom, you may qualify for classroom disability. This can be a mental or physical condition. Your condition does not need to be confirmed as a disability by the Social Security Administration.

If you qualify, you receive $125 per month. You also get an extra $5 for each year you were a teacher in a TRF-covered position after five years. You will not earn more service credit while receiving this benefit.

You must be out of the classroom due to your disability for six months in a row. During this time, you cannot be paid. After that, you can start receiving your classroom disability benefit.

NOTE: Being paid means receiving a check while working for your employer. It does not include any checks you get more than 30 days after your last day of work. These checks could be for work, sick time, compensatory time, vacation, or time on leave.
You must apply for classroom disability within one year of being diagnosed by a doctor as having a disability. INPRS assigns a doctor to confirm your disability. Your case will then be reviewed each year until you are 65. Once you are 65, you can apply for a disability or regular retirement.

If you die while you are receiving a classroom disability benefit or after returning to the classroom, but prior to retirement, your beneficiary will receive less money. Before calculating the benefit for your beneficiary, the amount of money paid to you as a classroom disability will be deducted from your DC.

**Disability Retirement**

Disability retirement with Board-approved eligibility requires the completion of at least 5 years of creditable service and eligible for Social Security disability.

The disability retirement benefit commencement date is either:

- The month following Social Security disability onset.
- The later of onset or last day of pay, dependent upon your age and service at time of disability.
- The onset date must be within 30 days from last check date.

**Disability Eligibility**

To become eligible for a disability retirement,

- Your disability must have occurred after June 30, 1984, and occurred while employed in a TRF- and/or PERF-covered position or while receiving classroom disability benefits from TRF.
- You must have at least 5 years of service credit in a TRF- and/or PERF-covered position
- Your disability must occur while employed in a PERF- and/or TRF-covered position.
- Your disability must be confirmed by the Social Security Administration and you are receiving salary, worker’s compensation benefits, or employer-provided income protection benefits (for example, long-term disability), or are on leave under FMLA as of the onset date established by the Social Security Administration (SSA).
- You may be receiving disability insurance payments from your employer.
- Your disability benefit calculation will only use the service credit accrued prior to your onset date.

**NOTE:** To qualify for a disability retirement benefit from TRF, you must have an employment relationship with your TRF employer in a TRF-covered position as of the onset date of the Social Security disability.

You must show proof you qualify for a Social Security disability. You can apply for disability retirement while waiting to receive an award letter from the Social Security Administration. In such a situation you must provide a copy of the application you sent to Social Security when completing the online retirement application for disability.
NOTE: The Social Security Administration will decide on an onset date for your disability. To qualify for a disability retirement benefit, your onset date must be during the time you worked in a TRF-covered position, were on FMLA leave, or were getting disability insurance payments from your employer. You can also qualify if on that date you were on workers’ compensation.

Disability Benefits

At least once a year prior to you reaching age 65 or becoming eligible for an unreduced normal TRF Hybrid retirement based on age and total service, the Fund is required to confirm that you continue to remain eligible for Social Security disability benefits.

Disability retirement benefit options and calculations for the monthly retirement benefit (DB) and the DC (including rolled over funds) are the same as those for any other retiree with the exceptions that:

1. You cannot choose the Social Security Integration option,
2. Generally, you will only get service credit for your work up to the onset date of your disability,
3. Your monthly retirement benefit will not be reduced for early retirement, and
4. You will not be paid any less than $180 each month with the 5-year certain and life benefit or the actuarial equivalent with any other benefit election.

No creditable service will be granted during the period for which TRF disability benefits are paid. As a member who is a state employee you are entitled to service credit for the time you receive short- or long-term disability benefits under a state-of-Indiana-sponsored disability plan.

When you notify INPRS that you qualify for Social Security disability benefits, INPRS will stop the early retirement benefits, recalculate the benefit without the reduction factor, and begin the monthly disability benefits.

NOTE: Effective July 1, 2008, Indiana law states that the disability benefit cannot be less than $180 per month. Prior to July 1, 2008, the minimum monthly benefit was $100.

Disability Retirement to Regular Retirement

If you are receiving a disability retirement it will be automatically converted to regular retirement benefits upon reaching age and service eligibility. Unless otherwise prohibited by law, service credit earned or awarded during the period of time you were receiving TRF disability benefits will be used in the calculation of the retirement benefit.

At least once a year until you reach age 65, you are required to confirm continued eligibility for Social Security disability benefits.

Disability retirement options and calculations for the monthly retirement benefit, the DC is the same as those for any other retiree with the exceptions that:

1. You cannot choose the Social Security Integration option,
2. Generally, you will only get service credit for your work up to the onset date of your disability,
3. Your monthly benefit will not be reduced for early retirement, and
4. You will not be paid any less than $180 each month.

Disability Alternatives

If you have 5 years of creditable service, are not eligible for early retirement, and have a copy of your request to Social Security for disability determination on file with INPRS, you may request a lump sum withdrawal of your DC account.

To withdraw your DC funds, you can access your account at myINPRSretirement.org. You can also contact the Member Service Center at (844) GO-INPRS (844-464-6777). For TDD call (800) 579-5708. CSRs are available weekdays (excluding weekends and state-designated holidays) from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET.

8.6 Retirement Minimum Benefit

Effective July 1, 2017, by SB 46, applies to the TRF July 2017 monthly benefit payable on August 1, 2017, going forward, any retro that may be due should reflect the minimum retirement benefit paid to a regularly retired member receiving an unreduced retirement benefit is $185.

8.7 Calculating Retirement Benefits

You begin collecting a lifetime monthly retirement benefit after you officially retire from TRF- or PERF-covered service and submit a properly completed online retirement application. The amount of the monthly retirement benefit is calculated using a three-factor formula set by law. TRF or PERF cannot alter this formula. The following are the three factors:

- Final high-5 average salary
- Creditable service
- Multiplier of 1.1 percent (0.011)

For further information on benefits calculation access the list of available calculators on the Online Calculators page of the INPRS website.

The retirement calculation is based on the wage and contribution submissions from your employer. If your employer has not submitted all of your wage and contribution information at the time of your retirement, INPRS will review and recalculate your benefit to include any trailing wage and contributions which could potentially increase your monthly benefit.

8.7.1 Retirement Benefits Calculator

The amount of your monthly retirement benefit is based on the following factors and your entries and selections as you create your estimate:

- Benefit multiplier. This amount is 1.1 percent (0.011). It is used in the math formula to come up with your monthly retirement benefit.
- Average annual compensation (yearly salary). This is the average dollar amount of your five highest yearly salaries. These are salaries you received working in a covered position.
- Years of service. Service credit you earned while working. You may also purchase service credit.
Retirement Benefits

- **Age at retirement.** If you retire early, the amount of your monthly retirement benefit will be less.

- **Retirement option.** You will have several options when you retire. The amount of your monthly retirement benefit will change for each option.

You can calculate your retirement benefits estimate using one of the following:

- The calculation worksheet and example shown in *Table 4.*
- The [TRF Retirement Benefit Estimate Calculator](https://www.inpr.org) available on the INPRS website.
- The Calculator available by logging into your account on [myINPRSretirement.org](https://www.myINPRSretirement.org). See **Option 1** for instructions to locate this calculator.

### Table 4: Retirement Benefits Calculator and Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>You</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final average salary</td>
<td>$50,000.00</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit multiplier</td>
<td>X 0.011</td>
<td>X 0.011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement benefit base amount</td>
<td>$550.00</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years of service</td>
<td>X 30</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual retirement benefit</td>
<td>$16,500.00</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly benefit</td>
<td>÷ 12</td>
<td>÷ 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calculated as an A-1 option</td>
<td>$1,375.00</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Option 1**

To use the online calculator, login to your online account at [myINPRSretirement.org](https://www.myINPRSretirement.org).

1. Go to the **Application and Calculators**
2. Click the **TRF Pension** tab.
3. Select the Calculator **Estimate Retirement Benefit.**
4. Enter a retirement date.
5. Click **Apply Projected Retirement Date.**
6. Answer the questions on beneficiary and social security.
7. Click **Calculate.**

The results will be an estimate of your monthly retirement benefit broken down by the selected options.

**Option 2**

Using one of the available calculator features or the worksheet, calculate an estimate by entering your projected retirement date, your final average salary, and your years of service.

**Option 3 (Social Security Integration)**

Using one of the available calculator features or the worksheet, calculate an estimate with the information from your latest Social Security statement. To qualify for this Social Security Integration (SSI) payment...
option, you must be less than age 62 at retirement and you must enter your estimated Social Security monthly payment amount that Social Security shows for you at age 62.

8.7.2 Final Average Earnings for Retirement

Final average earnings (FAE) refers to the highest 5 years of compensation in a TRF-covered position. The 5 years do not have to be continuous.

The items included in this calculation are:

- All your compensation reported as gross income on a W-2 for covered service in a TRF- and/or PERF-covered position.
- Pre-tax contributions paid to the Fund by your employer.
- Amounts deferred under sections 125, 403(b), or 457 of the IRC.
- Amounts that would have been paid during a period of time when you were on an unpaid leave of absence while serving in an elected position.
- Compensation paid in contemplation of your retirement (severance pay), up to $2,000, including any employer-paid mandatory contributions paid either before you cease service or within 12 months after you cease service.
- Compensation paid as part of a legal settlement or for back-pay that will be allocated to the year in which the compensation was earned or would have been earned.
- Differential wage payments if you were on active military duty on or after January 1, 2009.

Compensation from multiple employers is totaled if you receive annual compensation from two or more participating employers and:

- You and each employer made all required contributions to the Fund.
- You served in at least one position that normally required more than 600 hours of service during the year.

8.7.3 Last Day in Pay for Retirement

The last day in pay (LDIP) is the last day worked in a covered position. TRF uses an “effective date” for retirement benefits. The effective date of your retirement benefits can be no earlier than the first day of the month following your last day in pay unless you defer.

**Example**

If the last day in pay is August 2, the effective date of retirement is September 1. Last day in pay is not needed for Millie Morgan, Elected Official, or Disability retirements; however, you cannot receive distribution of additional contributions until a last day in pay is received.

8.8 Retirement Benefit Payment Options

The payment decisions you make at retirement will affect the amount of your monthly retirement benefits and determine whether or not any survivors or beneficiaries will receive monthly benefits after your death.
How much you will receive each month in retirement benefits will depend on:

- Your wages and service credit from your DB. See options listed below.
- How you choose to take payments from your DC and/or Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds. See the Defined Contribution Account Payment Options section of this handbook for details.

8.8.1 Five-Year Certain and Life
You will receive monthly benefits for the rest of your life. If you die before receiving 60 monthly benefit payments, your beneficiary(ies) will receive your monthly benefit for the remainder of those 60 months, or a lump sum distribution equal to the present value of those remaining payments. After 60 months (5 years), there are no payments available to the beneficiary(ies).

8.8.2 Straight Life
You will receive a monthly benefit for life, but there are no monthly payments to anyone after your death.

8.8.3 100 Percent Survivor Benefit
You will be paid a monthly benefit for life. After your death, the same monthly benefit will be paid to your survivor/beneficiary for that person’s lifetime. Contact the Member Service Center at (844) GO-INPRS (844-464-6777) if your survivor/beneficiary is not your spouse. There are restrictions (age, child, etc.) and only one survivor can be named.

8.8.4 66\(\frac{2}{3}\) Percent Joint and Survivor Benefit
You will be paid a monthly benefit for life. After your death, two-thirds (66\(\frac{2}{3}\) percent) of the benefit will be paid to your survivor/beneficiary for that person’s lifetime. Contact the Member Service Center at (844) GO-INPRS (844-464-6777) if your survivor/beneficiary is not your spouse. There are restrictions (age, child, etc.) and only one survivor can be named.

8.8.5 50 Percent Joint and Survivor Benefit
You will be paid a monthly benefit for life. After your death, one-half (50 percent) of the benefit will be paid to your survivor/beneficiary for that person’s lifetime. Contact the Member Service Center at (844) GO-INPRS (844-464-6777) if your survivor/beneficiary is not your spouse. There are restrictions (age, child, etc.) and only one survivor can be named.

8.8.6 Social Security Integration (SSI)
If you retire between ages 50 and 62, you may integrate the monthly retirement benefit with your estimated Social Security benefits. This does not affect the amount of the benefit received from the Social Security Administration (SSA).

Before age 62, your benefits will equal the sum of your age 62 Social Security estimate, multiplied by actuarial factors, and your early retirement benefit. This will result in you receiving a larger monthly benefit payment before age 62.

At age 62, your benefit will equal the difference between your age 62 Social Security estimate, multiplied by actuarial factors, and your pre-62 monthly retirement benefit. Depending upon your estimated Social
Security disbursement, benefit payments may be greatly reduced or terminated at age 62. When receiving an unreduced benefit, the age 62 benefit shall not reduce below $185.

**NOTE:** Applicable to all Options
If you and your beneficiary(ies) die, and you did not withdraw your DC and Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds at retirement, and if the total amount of payments received up to the date of death [including benefits, DC and Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution payments] is less than the balance of the DC and Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution e account at the time of retirement, then either the beneficiary(ies) or your estate will be paid the remaining DC and Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution balance.

### 8.9 Deductions
You may elect to have federal and/or state, as well as county taxes withheld from the monthly retirement benefit payments. Additionally, if you elect to participate in the TRF-sponsored supplemental group health insurance, your premiums will be deducted from your monthly retirement benefit payments.

### 8.10 Defined Contribution and Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution Account Payment Options
Your DC and/or Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds is/are the second piece of your two-part retirement benefits. You have received statements tracking this account throughout your career as a TRF member. You may annuitize your DC and/or Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds. You may also choose to receive a distribution of the DC and/or Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds (full or partial) when you retire from TRF.

**NOTE:** Any DC and Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds totaling $1,000 or less received after the final date on which your retirement benefit is processed may be paid directly to you.

As of July 1, 2008, if you are a vested member who is eligible for early retirement, you may withdraw your DC and/or Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds without forfeiting your retirement benefit, so long as you separate from service for more than 30 days. As of January 1, 2021, if you are age and service eligible for normal retirement, you do not have to wait 30 days after separation of service in order to withdraw your DC account.

**NOTE:** If you elect to defer your DC and Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds at retirement the balances of your DC and Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution accounts will be invested according to your pre-retirement investment allocations.

Applicable forms for beneficiary designation for your DC and/or Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds are available on the Teachers’ Retirement Fund (TRF) Member Forms page of the INPRS website.

* And Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds (if applicable).
8.10.1 Prior to Retirement

If you are vested, but are not eligible for a retirement benefit at the time of distribution, you are not eligible to elect an annuity directly from INPRS to MetLife.

As long as you are working in a TRF-covered position (TRF Hybrid or TRF My Choice) you may not take a withdrawal, partial or otherwise. This would be an in-service distribution and is only allowed in certain circumstances.

If you are not working in a TRF-covered position, you may take a partial withdrawal of your DC and/or Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds (TRF Hybrid or TRF My Choice).

If you are working in PERF-covered position you will now be eligible to take withdraws from your TRF DC and/or Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds. Prior to this, the requirement was that you had to be separated from both TRF and PERF.

8.10.2 Combine Defined Contribution Account with Monthly Retirement Benefit

As of January 1, 2018, INPRS no longer combines your DC and/or Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds with your DB account to provide your monthly retirement benefit. Your monthly retirement benefit is now funded solely by your DB.

INPRS has partnered with MetLife to offer annuities at competitive rates for your DC and Rollover Pre-Tax Contributions funds. With the transition to MetLife not only do you still have the ability to purchase a lifetime income annuity with all your DC and Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution fund’s assets, but also with a portion of those assets. You are also eligible to rollover all or part of your DC and Rollover Pre-Tax Contributions to any Qualified Retirement Plan.

NOTE: Once you purchase an annuity with your DC Account, INPRS is not able to reverse your selection. Carefully consider and determine what you would like to do with the money within your DC account.

8.10.3 Split Defined Contribution and Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution Account Balance

You may elect to split your DC and Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds between these options:

- MetLife Annuity (Visit the MetLife Retirement Income Center to create your annuity estimate)
- Direct Rollover
- Lump Sum
- Deferment

You must complete your IRA or Qualified Retirement Plan information if you choose to roll over a portion of your DC and/or Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds.

You may elect to use this percentage of your DC and/or Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds to purchase a MetLife Annuity or any Qualified Retirement Plan:

- Straight Life Annuity with Cash Refund
- 100 percent Survivor Annuity with Cash Refund
• 66⅔ percent Survivor Annuity with Cash Refund
• 50 percent Survivor Annuity with Cash Refund

For more information about the MetLife annuity, visit the MetLife Retirement Income Center to create your annuity estimate.

For 100 percent, 66⅔ percent or 50 percent annuity survivor benefit, designate only one survivor.

8.10.4 MetLife Annuity

You may elect to rollover all or any portion of your DC and Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds up to 100 percent into a MetLife annuity. The minimum rollover amount is $5,000. The option to rollover all or part of your DC and Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds into MetLife is offered when you are completing your online retirement application.

If you elect to do only a partial rollover of your DC and Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds to MetLife, you must choose to do one or a combination of the following with the remainder of your DC and Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds balance. Whatever you elect, it must equal 100 percent of your DC and Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds.

1. Rollover part or the remaining DC and Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds balance into another Qualified Retirement Plan.

2. Take disbursement of all or part of the remaining DC and Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds balance to be paid directly to you (be aware of tax implications for this type of disbursement). See the Income Tax Considerations section of this handbook for details.

3. Leave all or part of your DC and Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds balance invested with TRF (deferment) until a later time. See the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) Information section of this handbook for details about DC and Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds distributions at age 70½ or age 72, depending upon when you reach age 70 ½, for deferred funds.

NOTE: Once you purchase an annuity with your DC Account, INPRS is not able to reverse your selection. Carefully consider and determine what you would like to do with the money within your DC account.

8.10.5 Direct Rollover

You may elect to rollover any portion of your DC and/ Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds up to 100 percent into a Qualified Retirement Plan. This option is available when you are completing your online application.

If you elect to do only a partial rollover of your DC and Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds to a Qualified Retirement Plan, you must choose to do one or a combination of the three options outlined in the MetLife Annuity section of this handbook. Whatever you elect, it must equal 100 percent of your DC and Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution funds balance.

You must verify that your qualified retirement plan or IRA will accept the rollover, especially if it is rolling over tax basis funds.
8.10.6 Lump Sum
You may elect to take a lump sum distribution of any portion of your DC and Rollover-Pre-Tax Contribution funds, as applicable, up to 100 percent. This is a direct distribution of your DC and Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution account and has tax implications. See the Income Tax Considerations section of this handbook for details. This option is available when you are completing your online application.

If you elect to do only a partial distribution from your DC and Rollover-Pre-Tax Contribution funds you must choose to do one or a combination of the remaining three options outlined in the MetLife Annuity section of this handbook. Whatever you elect, it must equal 100 percent of your DC and/or Rollover-Pre-Tax Contribution funds balance.

8.10.7 Deferment
You may elect defer distribution of any portion of your DC and Rollover-Pre-Tax Contribution funds up to 100 percent. See the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) Information section of this handbook for details about DC and Rollover-Pre-Tax Contribution funds distributions at age 70½, or age 72 depending upon when you reached age 70 ½ for deferred funds. This option is available when you are completing your online application.

If you elect to defer only a portion of your DC and Rollover-Pre-Tax Contribution funds, you must choose to do one or a combination of the remaining three options outlined in the MetLife Annuity section of this handbook. Whatever you elect, it must equal 100 percent of your DC and Rollover-Pre-Tax Contribution funds balance.

NOTE: Your decision on how to receive distributions from your DC and Rollover-Pre-Tax Contribution funds can have significant tax implications, and you are urged to consult with a tax advisor. INPRS can explain options, but cannot offer investment or tax advice.

8.11 Re-Employment of Retired Members
You are entitled to go back to work after you retire and continue receiving TRF Hybrid retirement benefits.

If you are returning to a TRF or PERF position (covered or not covered), you must have a separation of employment for a period of at least 30 days.

Your effective retirement date is the first day of the month for which you were paid retirement benefits. There is no earnings limitation for those who choose to return to work in a TRF Hybrid-covered position after retirement; however, you will not receive additional service or contributions.

8.11.1 30-Day Requirement
The 30 days away from employment starts on your last day of work. If you are a teacher, it would be your last day in the classroom.

When you retire, your retirement date will be the first day of the month. Once you decide your last day of work, then your retirement date will be the first day of the next month. This official “Retirement Date” is not the day used for the 30 days. INPRS calculates from your last day at work.
If you retire from a TRF Hybrid-covered position and reemploy more than 30 days later in a position covered by the TRF My Choice: Retirement Savings Plan (formerly ASA Only Plan), depending on whether the employer offers TRF My Choice to re-employed retirees, you may be eligible to begin accruing a benefit under the TRF My Choice Plan.

**Example**

You stop teaching on May 18. Your “retirement date” is June 1. You may acquire a job with your employer or another TRF- or PERF-covered position on June 18.

If you go back to work before 30 days or make an agreement to do so, your retirement becomes void. That means you will no longer receive a monthly retirement benefit and will also have to pay back any money you received from INPRS.

You will continue to earn service credit for when you do retire.

If you acquire a job after retirement after meeting the 30-day requirement, there will not be any limits on how much money you can make. You will also still receive your monthly retirement benefit. No more money will be placed in your DC and you will not be earning any more service credit. Your new job will not increase your retirement benefit.

If you retire from a TRF-covered position and reemploy more than 30 days later in a position covered by the TRF My Choice Retirement Savings Plan (formerly ASA Only Plan), depending on the employer’s choice, you may be eligible to begin accruing a benefit under the TRF My Choice Plan.

---

**NOTE:** Your TRF Hybrid retirement application is void if you have an agreement, formal or informal, prior to your retirement, with a covered employer to become re-employed in a covered position.

8.11.2 Second Retirement

If you retired from a TRF Hybrid-covered position and reemployed more than 30 days later in a PERF Hybrid-covered position on or before June 30, 2013, you are eligible for a second retirement as long as service requirements are met. However, if you retire from a TRF Hybrid-covered position and reemploy more than 30 days later in a PERF Hybrid-covered position on or after July 1, 2013, you are not eligible for a second retirement.

1. Only re-employed service earned prior to July 1, 2007, qualifies for TRF Hybrid second retirement.

2. First service after retirement has to be at least 90 days in the school year in order to “reactivate” your account. Once you have 90 days in a school year, service credit is earned at the normal 60 day (½ year) and 120 day (1 year) increments.

3. If you are an elected official, you must complete and submit to INPRS the Elect to Begin, Continue or Discontinue Retirement Benefits form available on the Teachers’ Retirement Fund (TRF) Member Forms page of the INPRS website.

You are entitled to go back to work after you retire from your PERF- or TRF-covered position and continue receiving TRF Hybrid retirement benefits. If you are returning to a TRF or PERF position (covered or not covered), you must have a separation of employment for a period of at least 30 days.
Your effective retirement date is the first day of the month for which you were paid retirement benefits. There is no earnings limitation for those who choose to return to work in a TRF Hybrid-covered position after retirement.

8.12 Direct Deposit

Direct deposit is the required method to distribute benefit payments. On the same day each month, your payment will be deposited directly into your specified account. You will receive an annual notice of deposits.

The Direct Deposit form is completed and submitted online from your account at myINPRSretirement.org. You can contact the Member Service Center at (844) GO-INPRS (844-464-6777). For TDD call 1-800-579-5708. CSRs are available weekdays (excluding weekends and state designated holidays) from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET. The CSR will direct you to your account at myINPRSretirement.org to complete and submit the online information.

If you do not enter ACH information you will be directed to contact the Member Service Center.

The retirement application cannot be submitted until the direct deposit election is resolved.

8.13 Retirement Benefit Payment Dates

Your retirement date is the first of the month. If the first falls on a weekend, your payment will be mailed on the next business day. The direct deposit is made on the same day as the payable date. If you have questions, contact the Member Service Center at (844) GO-INPRS.

The list of TRF Retirement Benefit Payment Dates is available on the INPRS website.

8.14 Retirement Application Requirements

It may take up to 90 days to process your retirement application once it is submitted to INPRS. To complete your retirement application, you will access your account at myINPRSretirement.org and follow the prompts and instructions provided.

- **Confirm Personal Information** – your address and personal information as requested
- **Choose Your Retirement Date and Plan** – provide your retirement date and retirement type as requested (options will be limited by the Plan and date entered)
- **Survivor Designation** – enter your survivor information as requested
- **Tax Notices** – enter information and make selections for state, federal, and local, as applicable
- **Direct Deposit** – provide the requested information
- **Required Documents** – upload any additional document as applicable or as required

If you need assistance call the Member Service Center at (844) GO-INPRS (844-464-6777). For TDD call (800) 579-5708. CSRs are available weekdays (excluding weekends and state-designated holidays) from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET.
8.15 Benefit Overpayment and Underpayment

INPRS is required by federal and state law to correct any errors in benefit calculations. If you receive an overpayment as a result of an error, INPRS must recover the overpayment. If you are underpaid, you will receive another payment from INPRS.

8.16 Health Insurance

8.16.1 Supplemental Group Health Insurance

INPRS offers a Medicare supplemental group health insurance plan. You qualify if you are 65 and over and are a TRF member or a spouse. INPRS will send you the information on the plan when you turn 65. The details include options and costs. You can also request the information by calling the Member Service Center at (844) GO-INPRS (844-464-6777).

If you are a TRF member under age 65, you may still qualify. If you are under age 65, you must receive a disability benefit to participate in the plan.

For more information, contact Anthem Insurance at (866) 649-2041.

RE Sutton and Associates also provides a Hot Line at (317) 228-3772 and email address at TRFhelpline@resutton.com to answer questions and assist you.

8.16.2 Early Retiree Insurance Program

This information is excerpted from the Indiana State Personnel Department (SPD), Benefits, Early Retiree Insurance Program website.

Upon retirement, eligible employees between the ages of 55 and 65 who have at least 15 years of creditable employment with a public employer (10 of which shall have been completed immediately preceding retirement) are offered early retiree insurance to continue their State insurance until they become eligible for Medicare. Complete eligibility requirements can be found in IC 5-10-8-8 or in the Benefiting You Handbook available from the website. Eligible retirees will have 90 days from their retirement to elect early retiree insurance coverage.
Death Benefits

This section addresses the survivor benefits. For taxation information see the Income Tax Considerations section of this manual.

9.1 Death in Retirement

Upon your death, INPRS will begin paying your retirement benefit to your designated survivor beneficiary. They will be paid based on the options you chose at retirement.

It is important that your beneficiary or someone who represents you contacts INPRS to report your death. Your representative must contact the Member Service Center at (844) GO-INPRS (844-464-6777).

Here are the steps:

1. Your representative contacts INPRS to report your death.
2. INPRS reviews your account and sends the appropriate paperwork to your representative.
3. Your representative sends in the completed paperwork, along with your death certificate.
4. INPRS calculates what money is due to your beneficiaries or your estate.

In order to claim your benefit at the time of your death your beneficiary must be named and on file at INPRS prior to your death. INPRS cannot accept a change of beneficiary after your death.

NOTE: Applicable to all Options for Retirees with Whom INPRS Services the Monthly Annuity:

If you and your beneficiary(ies) die, and if you did not withdraw your DC and/or Rollover-Pre-Tax Contribution funds at retirement, and if the total amount of payments received up to the date of death (including retirement and DC and/or Rollover-Pre-Tax Contribution fund payments) is less than the balance of the DC and/or Rollover-Pre-Tax Contribution funds at the time of retirement, then either the beneficiary(ies) or your estate will be paid the remaining DC and/or Rollover-Pre-Tax Contribution funds balance.

If a total distribution of the DC and/or Rollover-Pre-Tax Contribution funds is chosen as the payment option, this guarantee does not apply. Also, if a partial distribution of the DC and/or Rollover-Pre-Tax Contribution funds is/are chosen, this guarantee only applies to the remaining DC and/or Rollover-Pre-Tax Contribution funds balance.

9.2 Death While In Service

If your death occurs while you are still working (in service), INPRS will disburse the funds in your DC and/or Rollover-Pre-Tax Contribution account(s) to your beneficiary or your estate based on the beneficiary information on file with INPRS. If no beneficiary is named, the funds go to your estate.

If you are married for at least 2 years, your spouse may be entitled to a survivor benefit. If you have minor children, they may qualify for a benefit only if you do not have a qualifying spouse.

Your qualifying spouse or children can receive your retirement benefit [Defined Benefit (DB)] if:
9.2.1 Survivor Benefit when Member Is Not Retired

If you die before retiring, but were eligible to retire, your qualifying surviving spouse and/or surviving dependent(s) may be entitled to survivor benefits if you:

- Were at least age 65 and had at least 10 years of creditable and eligibility service combined.
- Had 10 or more years of creditable service combined at age 60 for full retirement benefits.
- Would have been eligible to receive retirement or disability benefits but died before applying for them.

If you meet these conditions and have been married for at least 2 years before your death, then your spouse qualifies for a monthly survivor benefit for life. If there is no eligible surviving spouse, survivor benefits are divided between all surviving dependents that are younger than 18 (or older if the dependent[s] is/are permanently disabled). If you have neither an eligible surviving spouse nor surviving dependents, then no survivor benefit will be paid.

**NOTE:** Marriages are recognized regardless of gender.

The survivor benefit is paid as an Option B1 – 100 percent survivor retirement calculated at the later of your age at date of death or age 50.

There may be a benefit payable from the DC and Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution account depending upon your named beneficiaries.

**NOTE:** The survivor benefit is separate and distinct from any benefit created by your DC and/or Rollover-Pre-Tax Contribution account(s).

Failure to inform INPRS of changes in beneficiary(ies) could result in payment being made to a previously named beneficiary who is no longer your choice to receive the DC and Rollover-Pre-Tax Contribution funds balance upon your death.

9.3 Death While Out of Service

Upon your death, if you are no longer working in a TRF-covered position, you do not lose your DC and Rollover-Pre-Tax Contribution funds. Whether or not you qualify to retire, upon your death your beneficiary(ies) will receive the funds in your DC and Rollover-Pre-Tax Contribution account(s). If you have no living designated beneficiary(ies) your estate will receive the funds in your DC and/or Rollover-Pre-Tax Contribution account(s).

If you are married for at least 2 years, and have at least 10 years of service, your spouse may be entitled to a survivor pension benefit. You must be vested at the time of your death. You cannot have already started receiving your retirement. If you have applied for your retirement benefit when you die, then your benefit will be paid based on your payment choice at the time you retired.
9.4 Death in Disability

When applying for disability with TRF, one of the activities is to complete a disability (retirement) application and submit it by accessing your account at myINPRSretirement.org. As part of the application process you select your benefits option which includes your choice of death benefits for your beneficiary/survivor or estate. Upon your death, INPRS is notified by your survivor or a representative and the *Death in Retirement* process begins.

You must include the beneficiary information prior to your death as changes to beneficiary/survivor information cannot be made after your death.

9.5 Trust or Legal Entity as Death Beneficiary

In certain situations, naming a Trust or Legal entity as beneficiary is possible. Generally, you can leave your death benefit of your DC account to a trust, but you cannot name a trust for a survivor benefit of your pension benefit. Complete and submit to the address on the *Change Your Beneficiary as an Active Member* form available on the Teachers' Retirement Fund (TRF) Member Forms page of the INPRS website.

There is no restriction on what type of trust you can name as your beneficiary. See the *Defined Contribution Account Payment Options* section of this handbook for more details.

9.6 HEART Act

According to the Heroes Earning Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008 (HEART), if you die while performing qualified military service, your survivor may be entitled to a survivor benefit. For more information contact the Member Service Center at (844) GO-INPRS (844-464-6777). For TDD call (800) 579-5708. CSRs are available weekdays (excluding weekends and state-designated holidays) from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET.

9.7 Disclaiming a Benefit

Indiana law allows a beneficiary to decline (disclaim) a benefit. The law also decides how the bequest is handled if a benefit is declined. For specific information on your situation contact the Member Service Center at (844) GO-INPRS (844-464-6777). The *Disclaimer (State Form 55221)* must be completed, signed, dated, and submitted to INPRS.
10.1 Tax Forms and Withholding

Each year, INPRS mails 1099-R forms to all benefit recipients by January 31. The 1099-R form is much like a W2 form. It lists the total amount of benefits received during the year. It also shows the taxable and non-taxable amounts. INPRS can also withhold federal, state, county, and local taxes. If you do not complete tax withholding forms at the time of your retirement, you may do so at any time.

INPRS can withhold federal taxes based upon the marital status and the number of exemptions claimed.

10.2 Tax Withholding

INPRS is required by law to withhold 20 percent for federal income taxes for any non-recurring, taxable lump sum distribution that is paid directly to you. You may have to pay federal, state, county, and local income taxes on this taxable portion.

NOTE: You must enter a withholding election (e.g., married with three exemptions, single, etc.) before electing an additional flat, whole dollar amount.

10.3 Deductions

You may elect to have federal, state, county, and local taxes withheld from your monthly retirement benefit payments. Additionally, if you elect to participate in the TRF-sponsored supplemental group health insurance, your premiums will be deducted from your monthly retirement benefit payments.

10.3.1 Taxation of Defined Contributions

Any contributions to a Defined Contributions (DC) account made with after-tax dollars are considered “tax basis” because you have already paid taxes on those dollars. Mandatory contributions paid by an employer were not taxed at the time they were paid. Therefore, they do not create “tax basis”.

Upon retirement, any after-tax contribution (your tax basis) is reported by INPRS as non-taxable on the IRS Form 1099-R issued to you and the IRS. However, it is important to note that your tax basis is recoverable under very specific IRS rules. The following briefly outlines the basis recovery rules applicable to this situation.

NOTE: INPRS only accepts rollover pre-tax contributions.

10.3.2 Basis Recovery Tax Rules

Retirements Processed Prior to January 1, 2018

You can elect to receive a total distribution of your DC and/or Rollover-Pre-Tax Contribution funds at the same time you begin receiving your monthly retirement benefits. However, if you elect to do so, federal tax law does not allow you to immediately recover your entire basis when you receive your DC funds. Instead, part of the basis must be allocated to the monthly retirement benefits. The basis allocated to the
monthly retirement payment are divided up and recovered over a mandatory number of monthly payments, as determined by applicable IRS regulations. Therefore, a portion of each monthly benefit paid to you is non-taxable, for as long as the basis remain.

This division of the basis is required because the IRS has issued a letter ruling to TRF concluding that the DC funds and monthly retirement benefits payable to you do not constitute separate accounts. The consequence of this ruling is that, upon retirement, basis from contributions to the DC account must be partially allocated to your retirement benefit, as described above. One exception to this basis allocation rule is also relevant: a special provision of federal tax law permits you to immediately recover any tax basis you may have had in your DC account on December 31, 1986. However, the post-1986 basis must be allocated to your monthly retirement benefits.

**All Active Accounts beginning January 1, 2018**

Your choice about how to distribute your DC and/or Rollover-Pre-Tax Contribution funds can have important tax implications, and INPRS urges you to consult with a tax advisor. INPRS can explain your options but cannot offer tax advice. The information below will help you and your advisors with federal tax rules as they apply to TRF benefits.

Contributions to your DC made with after-tax dollars are referred to as “cost basis”. Mandatory contributions paid by your employer were not taxed when they were paid so they do not create “cost basis”. At retirement, any after-tax contribution (your cost basis) is reported by INPRS as non-taxable on the IRS Form 1099-R. The 1099-R is issued to retired members and the IRS. It is important to note that your cost basis is recovered under very specific IRS rules. You can choose to receive a total withdrawal of your DC and/or Rollover-Pre-Tax Contribution funds when you begin receiving your monthly retirement benefit. This will include your total cost basis that is included in your DC.

There are two scenarios where the “cost basis” is still recoverable only with the monthly retirement benefit:

1. Any service purchases using personal funds may also be included as a “cost basis”, and
2. Any vested distribution prior to January 1, 2018, with a cumulative cost basis.
11.1 Cost of Living Adjustments

Cost of living adjustments (COLAs) are increases made to your monthly retirement benefit payment to help if the cost of living is more than when you retired. COLAs are not automatic in Indiana. The General Assembly must pass legislation granting a COLA.

Your annuitized DC and Rollover-Pre-Tax Contribution funds are not included when calculating your COLA.

You will receive a COLA only if the General Assembly passes legislation. Your COLA will normally be a percentage of your current retirement benefit. Usually those who have been retired longer will see an increase.

11.2 13th Check Annual Supplemental Payment

The 13th check is a lump sum, single payment INPRS makes to you. It is a single payment and does not increase your base monthly retirement benefit. The amount INPRS pays you is based on your creditable service at retirement.

You will receive a 13th check only if the General Assembly passes legislation.

A survivor or beneficiary of the member may be eligible for the check. The amount of the check will be distributed in equal shares if the member has two or more survivors or beneficiaries.

11.3 Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) Information

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires that if an interest in a retirement benefit you must take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from that benefit. Section 401(a)(9) of the Internal Revenue code (IRC) requires TRF to begin making required minimum distributions of your benefit starting by April 1 of the calendar year following the calendar year in which the you attain age 70½ or 72 (depending upon the date the individual reaches age 70 ½) or terminates employment, whichever date is later. Individuals who turn 70½ on or after January 1, 2020, do not have to take their RMD until age 72.

If the benefit does not begin in a timely fashion, the IRS may impose a 50 percent penalty due to a late distribution.

**NOTE:** Individuals who turn 70½ on or after January 1, 2020, do not have to take their RMD until age 72.

You must complete the online Retirement Application if you:

- Have at least 10 years of creditable and/or eligibility service.
- Have separated from service.
- Have not begun the retirement benefit.
- Will be age 70½ by December 31, 2019. The requirements indicated in the first paragraph of this section apply.
Additional Plan Information

- If you reach 70 ½ on or after January 1, 2020, you do not have to apply for or take your RMD until age 72. The requirements indicated in the first paragraph of this section apply.

You must complete a request for distribution by accessing your account at myINPRSretirement.org if one of the following requirements is met:

- You have 10 years of creditable and/or eligibility service and has separated from service.
- You have deferred receipt of your DC and/or Rollover-Pre-Tax Contribution funds at retirement and will be age 70½ by December 31 pursuant to the requirements contained within Federal and State law and discussed above.
- You would have been age 70½ by December 31, and the surviving spouse did not take a distribution from your DC and/or Rollover-Pre-Tax Contribution funds at the time of your death.

The retirement application must be completed online and submitted to INPRS. The Retirement Application is available by accessing your account at myINPRSretirement.org. For more information contact the Member Service Center at (844) GO-INPRS (844-464-6777). For TDD call 1-800-579-5708. CSRs are available weekdays (excluding weekends and state designated holidays) from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET.

If INPRS does not receive the application by December 31, and you will be age 70½ by December 31 pursuant to the requirements discussed above, INPRS will undertake to contact you to set up the RMD for distribution of any retirement and/or DC and/or Rollover-Pre-Tax Contribution funds to which you are entitled.

If you have reached the age requirement of 70½ or 72 as discussed above before submitting the Retirement Application, INPRS is required to adjust the benefit for any IRS imposed penalties. See 35 IAC 14-7-7 for more detailed information regarding TRF’s RMD process.

11.3.1 Death Benefit Required Minimum Distribution

If you die with a Defined Contribution (DC) account and/or Rollover Pre-Tax Contribution account balance, the designated beneficiary(ies) must receive their distributions within 5 years of the date of death. The beneficiary(ies) may take the distribution in a single lump sum or proportionate annual payments over the 5-year period. If the beneficiary(ies) annuitizes the amount, then it may be paid over the life expectancy of the beneficiary(ies) pursuant to IRS rules (35 IAC 14-7-8).

11.4 Administrative Review

**NOTE:** This information is only a guide and neither a substitute for, nor intended as, legal advice.

If INPRS staff have answered your questions regarding your account but you disagree with the action or determination, and no alternative resolution is available, you may request administrative review under the Administrative Orders and Procedures Act (IC 4-21.5). You must have standing as a party or a right to intervention to request administrative review.
11.4.1 Initial Determination

Petition INPRS in the form of a letter to request a review of the action or determination with which you disagree. This letter should specifically state the basis of your disagreement and include sufficient facts so that INPRS administration can make an evaluation and determination. You may include copies of any supporting documents. For a sample format of this member petition, see the Step 1: Member Petition for Administrative Review of Staff Action/Determination form available on the INPRS website.

Once an evaluation has been completed, you will be notified with an initial determination letter, sent by certified mail. INPRS will detail in the letter our initial determination and provide supporting justification. In addition, INPRS will provide explicit instructions should you want to appeal the initial determination. Indiana law sets forth specific timelines to appeal a decision. Should your appeal be received after the deadline, under Indiana law, the initial determination will become final and you will forfeit any future claims specific to that particular outcome. As noted, many processes and procedures followed by INPRS are statutory, meaning INPRS does not have the discretion to act outside of the law in granting a benefit that federal and/or state law does not permit.

11.4.2 Administrative Law Judge

If you disagree with the initial determination and want to further challenge, you may bring the matter before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). To initiate this process, you must file a petition for review with the INPRS Executive Director. The petition for review:

- Must meet the statutory requirements set forth in IC 4-21.5-3-7(a); AND
- Must be filed within 15 days after you have received the written notice of the INPRS initial determination letter. (IC 4-21.5-3-7(a)).

If your petition for review meets the statutory requirements, INPRS will arrange for an administrative hearing of your case, which is similar to a trial in a lawsuit, but is conducted in less formal manner (IC 4-21.5-3-25(b)). You may be represented by counsel, but there is no requirement that you obtain representation. INPRS is not responsible for costs associated with your representation. The ALJ who conducts the review will consider the evidence concerning the administrative action/decision and decide whether INPRS has misinterpreted or misapplied the law and/or acted beyond the scope of its authority in your case.

After an ALJ is selected, you will be notified of the time and place of a pre-hearing conference, ordinarily conducted by conference call between you, INPRS, and the ALJ. The purpose of this conference is for the ALJ to identify and narrow the issues of the case and to set a timeframe for pleadings and discovery. A pleading is a formal document that sets forth allegations, complaints, denials, or defenses. Discovery is the process of learning information and obtaining documents from the other party.

If there are no material facts in dispute and the ALJ believes that the issues involved in the case deal with whether INPRS has applied or interpreted the law correctly, the ALJ may request a party file a motion for summary judgment. This means the ALJ may determine the case based on information submitted to the ALJ in writing. This is a process that speeds up the disposition of the case without the need for an evidentiary hearing where witnesses testify and are cross examined.
If there are material issues of fact, the ALJ will set a date for an evidentiary hearing where each party will call and cross examine witnesses and present other evidence. For a detailed outline of the ALJ review process, see the General Outline for Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Review available on the INPRS website.

Within ninety (90) days after the conclusion of the administrative hearing, the ALJ will issue a Finding of Facts and Conclusions of Law and written order concerning the action or decision that you are challenging (IC 4-21.5-3-27). The ALJ’s order is then subject to review by the INPRS Executive Director. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the Executive Director will issue a final order that affirms, modifies, or dissolves the ALJ’s order (IC 4-21.5-3-29(b)).

11.4.3 Judicial Review

If you are still in disagreement at the conclusion of the administrative review, you may seek judicial review within thirty (30) days of receipt of the final order (IC 4-21.5-5). A reviewing court will examine only those disputed issues of fact that appear in the agency record of the appeal. The trial court may not retry the appeal or substitute its judgment for that of agency (IC 4-21.5-5-11).

See the Administrative Review Regulations available on the INPRS website for a list of all relevant IAC references.

11.5 Power of Attorney

The fund honors requests and directions from a lawful holder of a Power of Attorney document for you. This individual is known as the attorney-in-fact. The Power of Attorney must grant the attorney-in-fact the authority to transact business of the type requested. For instance, if the Power of Attorney document grants the attorney-in-fact broad discretion to handle all banking and financial transactions, the fund will accept directions regarding benefit check delivery. If, on the other hand, you grant what is known as a Health Care Power of Attorney, the attorney-in-fact does not have the authority to direct the fund on any matter, even something as simple as an address change.

If you want to name a Power of Attorney for fund business only, without incurring the expense of legal counsel, the fund can provide a Limited Power of Attorney for Members and Recipients (State Form 49614). However, this Power of Attorney applies only to fund business and is not valid for general public use. To receive a copy of this form to be completed and returned to the address on the form, contact the Member Service Center at (844) GO-INPRS (844-464-6777). For TDD call 1-800-579-5708. CSRs are available weekdays (excluding weekends and state designated holidays) from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET.

If an attorney-in-fact attempts to act on behalf you, the fund will require a copy of the Power of Attorney. If a copy of the Power of Attorney is not in your file, the requested transaction will be denied. The denial will then be returned to the attorney-in-fact, requesting proof of legal authority to act on your behalf.

NOTE: Indiana law has very specific requirements for a Power of Attorney to be valid. Your signature must be witnessed and attested to by a Notary Public. Further, the Notary Public must sign the document along with the attorney’s printed name and notarial seal.
11.6 Guardian
The fund honors requests and directions from a legally appointed guardian of your estate.

Before the fund can recognize acts of a guardian, the fund must receive copies of the Letters of Guardianship and/or other official court documents appointing the guardian. Only the guardian of your "estate", the person with the power to handle financial matters (as opposed to the guardian of the "person" who is responsible for your physical well-being), may direct the fund.

Guardians are appointed only when you are declared incompetent by a court of law. Thus, while you are under an active guardianship and unable to act on your own behalf, the fund will not recognize your acts until provided proof that your right to act on your own behalf has been restored.

11.7 Access to Records
11.7.1 Member Records
Your records are confidential by law. INPRS will only release your name, fund, and years of service.

INPRS can provide information from your records to you, or to one of the following:

- a guardian,
- a representative of your estate,
- an attorney-in-fact (aka Power of Attorney or POA),
- someone to whom you have given express permission, or
- someone named by a court order.

There are other exceptions to this rule. Contact INPRS if you have a situation other than those outlined herein.

11.7.2 Public Records
You do not need to fill out a request for access to public records to get your information. You can:

- Call (844) GO-INPRS (844-464-6777),
- Email us at questions@inprs.in.gov, or
- Send a written request or stop by in person at:

  Indiana Public Retirement System
  One North Capitol Avenue, Suite 001
  Indianapolis, IN 46204

There are other exceptions to this rule. Contact INPRS if you have a situation other than those outlined herein.
11.8 Confidentiality of Fund Records

Your records are protected by law under 35 IAC 1.2-1-5 and IC 5-10.5-6-4. The law outlines INPRS confidentiality rules and allows INPRS, at its discretion, to provide member information to:

- members of the Indiana General Assembly,
- state agencies,
- quasi-governmental agencies,
- any person with the member’s written permission, including a Power of Attorney,
- an active member’s employer,
- a deceased member’s personal representative with Letters Testamentary or a beneficiary, according to a small estate affidavit,
- to follow state or federal law, a subpoena, legal discovery under the Indiana trial rules or Orders and Procedures Act or other court order.

There are other exceptions to this rule. Contact INPRS if you have a situation other than those outlined herein.