

I Will Retire This Year



What to do: Register for myCalSTRS

- Activate your *myCalSTRS* account at *myCalSTRS.com*.
 - Review and update your contact information and mailing preferences.
 - Designate or update your one-time death benefit recipient.
 - Access your *Retirement Progress Report* and contact your employer directly regarding any discrepancies.
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What to do: Understand the formula and your Defined Benefit choices

- Watch the member education videos at **CalSTRS.com/videos** to learn more.
 - Check your service credit balance on your *Retirement Progress Report*.
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What to do: Know your Defined Benefit Supplement account choices

- Find your account balance on your *Retirement Progress Report*.
 - Watch the *Defined Benefit Supplement Program* videos at **CalSTRS.com/videos**.
 - Discuss tax considerations with a financial advisor or tax professional.
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What to do: Learn about CalSTRS Pension2

- Consider if you want to roll over your Defined Benefit Supplement account funds or current supplemental savings to a Pension2 plan.
 - Visit **Pension2.com** to learn more about the low costs and flexible investment options.
 - Contact a Pension2 representative at 888-394-2060.
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What to do: Review Your Retirement Guide

- Read the *Your Retirement Guide* at **CalSTRS.com/publications**.
 - Understand your retirement decisions.
 - What retirement date should you select?
 - Do you want to leave a lifetime payment to a loved one?
 - How do you want to receive your Defined Benefit Supplement funds?
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What to do: Obtain a Service Retirement estimate

- Access your *Retirement Progress Report* via *myCalSTRS* for benefit estimates.
- Use the *Retirement Benefits Calculator* at **CalSTRS.com/calculators** to generate additional estimates.

What to do: Verify resignation requirements

- Check with your employer's Human Resources department for your district's resignation and retirement process.
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What to do: Research health benefits coverage

- Look into your employer's health benefits coverage in retirement.
 - Contact Covered California (coveredca.com or 800-300-1506) to shop for coverage.
 - Contact HICAP (cahealthadvocates.org or 800-434-0222) for assistance signing up for Medicare as soon as you're eligible. For most people, eligibility is reached at age 65.
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What to do: Understand Social Security rules

- Visit ssa.gov/gpo-wep to learn more about the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset.
 - Contact the Social Security Administration for more information and benefit estimates.
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What to do: Apply for retirement

- Complete the *Service Retirement Application* no earlier than six months before your retirement date.
 - Submit your application via *myCalSTRS* for faster processing or submit a hard copy by fax, hand delivery or mail.
 - Provide the Express Benefit Report to your employer to complete and return to CalSTRS.
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What to do: Wait to work

- Understand that you cannot earn any pay without affecting your retirement benefit if you return to work in the California public school system before the 180-calendar day separation-from-service requirement.
 - Track your gross earnings to avoid exceeding the annual postretirement earnings limit.
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What to do: Access convenient resources

- Visit CalSTRS.com to learn more about your benefits.
- Use *myCalSTRS* to access your account information, submit forms and send and receive online messages with CalSTRS representatives.
- Contact CalSTRS by phone at 800-228-5453, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with questions.

