

Schwab Personal Choice Retirement Account® (PCRA)

charles
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OPERS Fact Sheet

Schwab Personal Choice Retirement Account is a self-directed brokerage account (SDBA) designed to complement your Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) retirement plan core investments. PCRA gives you greater access to thousands of additional investment choices.

Who should choose to invest through PCRA?

Schwab PCRA is for *knowledgeable* investors who understand the risks associated with many of the investment choices available through PCRA and who are committed to staying invested for the long-term. PCRA is designed for individuals who seek more flexibility, increased diversification and a greater role in managing their retirement savings.

How does PCRA differ from a typical brokerage account?

PCRA is different than a typical retail brokerage account because it is part of your retirement plan. Because your assets are part of a retirement plan, your investments are tax-deferred. You can only fund your PCRA through transfers from your OPERS retirement plan core investments.

A significant difference is that your PCRA can only be used to invest in mutual funds offered at Schwab, based on the provisions of your plan. If you have any other accounts with Schwab, such as an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), you cannot transfer assets between such accounts and PCRA. All restrictions imposed through your OPERS retirement plan apply to the money transferred to PCRA.

What investments are available through PCRA?

Through PCRA, you may access more than 8,700 mutual funds from over 600 well-known fund families, including over 2,700 funds typically available only to institutional clients. Over 3,800 mutual funds are available with no-loads and no-transaction fees¹. Ineligible investments include: stocks, bonds, exchange-traded funds, currencies, short sales, private placements, commodities, precious metals, real estate, futures, margin accounts, collectibles, and options.

Note: Investors should carefully consider information contained in the prospectus, including investment objectives, risks, trading policies, charges and expenses. You can request a prospectus by calling Schwab's dedicated PCRA Call Center at 1-888-393-PCRA (7272). You may also request a prospectus online at www.schwab.com/prospectus. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing.

How do I open my PCRA?

1. Click "Enroll" on the OPERS Self-Directed Brokerage Account web page.
2. Input the following information along with your Social Security Number:
 - Retirement Plan ID: **824158**
 - Password: **1937**
3. Follow the steps to complete the online PCRA Application.
4. Once you click "Submit," you will receive your account number instantly on the screen, and you'll be automatically re-directed to Schwab.com.
5. Once on Schwab.com, click "First Time Users" (under "LOG IN"), then click "Register" to set up your PCRA for online access. You'll need to input your SSN, new PCRA number, Date of Birth and Home Phone Number for this step.
6. Your PCRA is now ready to be funded, and you can begin researching investment opportunities.
7. You will receive welcome materials from Schwab in a few days.

How do I transfer money into my PCRA?

Once your Schwab PCRA is established, you fund your PCRA by transferring money from your OPERS retirement plan core investments in a three-step process:

- Determine from which of your other core investments you want to transfer money.
- Decide on the amount to transfer, but not greater than 90% of your OPERS core fund balance.
- Initiate the transfer through your OPERS online account or with assistance from a helpline counselor at 1-866-673-7748.

How do I place trades and manage my PCRA balance?

- Place trades and manage your account through Schwab's electronic channels, such as Schwab.com, mobile applications, and automated phone services.
- For Schwab.com, log in and select your PCRA number to manage your account. Select "Research" to narrow down your choices, then click on "Trade" to place trade orders.
- For phone services, call 1-888-393-PCRA (7272) to speak to a dedicated PCRA Call Center representative, to access TeleBroker® touch tone service, or to use Schwab by Phone™ voice recognition service. PCRA Registered Representatives are available Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. (ET). Outside of these hours, Schwab Investor Service Center representatives are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

What does it cost?

- Transaction fees and trading commissions are outlined in the *Charles Schwab Pricing Guide for Retirement Plan Accounts* provided in the welcome materials you receive from Schwab after opening your account.
- Please note that there is no charge from Schwab to open or maintain a PCRA.

What information is available to help me learn about and select investments?

- Powerful proprietary research tools on Schwab.com, such as the *Schwab Mutual Fund OneSource Select List*®, as well as mutual fund commentary and insight.
- Access to mutual fund screener tools to help you choose your investments.
- Knowledgeable PCRA Call Center representatives who can help with investing information.
- Online or in-person investing workshops led by Schwab investment professionals covering timely topics.
- Find information about PCRA at www.schwab.com/pcra.
- Once logged into your PCRA on Schwab.com, view the PCRA "how-to" video (schwab.com/pcrahowto), as well as other helpful information contained in the "PCRA Resources" section.
- Over 365 Schwab branch offices nationwide to help with your other investing needs.

How do I invest the money in my PCRA?

Assets transferred from your OPERS retirement plan core account into your PCRA will be automatically allocated into the cash sweep feature² in your PCRA within approximately two business days. Use these assets to purchase the securities you have selected.

Can I make direct payroll contributions to my PCRA?

No. Money can only be transferred from the OPERS core investment options into your PCRA.

What cash options are available in PCRA?

Your cash balances are swept into a multiple-bank cash feature product providing up to \$500,000 FDIC insurance to your cash balance.³ The cash feature is not intended to be a long-term investment. If you desire to maintain cash balances for other than a short-term period and/or are seeking the highest yields currently available in the market, you can use Schwab purchased money market funds. This option is available outside of the Cash Features Program to help maximize your return potential, consistent with your investment objectives and risk tolerance.

For additional information, contact your Schwab representative or visit www.schwab.com/cash after you log in to your account.

How do I transfer money from my PCRA back to the other core investments in my retirement plan?

If required, visit Schwab.com or call the PCRA Call Center to liquidate securities to make cash available for transfer. As soon as settled cash is available in the cash sweep feature in your PCRA, you may transfer the assets back to your OPERS retirement plan core investments. Initiate the transfer through your OPERS online account or with assistance from a helpline counselor at 1-866-673-7748.

Who provides my PCRA statements?

Schwab will send you a PCRA statement each month regardless of activity. You can access your PCRA statement, see your balance, and view all transactions made within the last two years by logging into your PCRA on Schwab.com. You can enroll in Schwab's Paperless Service and electronically receive your statements, trade confirms, and other regulatory materials via email by going to www.schwab.com/paperless.

Is there a minimum transfer required?

No. There is no minimum transfer amount as long as requirements for establishing and maintaining an account are met.

Can I still participate in the PCRA when I terminate employment?

Yes. You can still participate in the PCRA as long as you have an OPERS Individual Account and meet the other requirements.

How are the funds invested in the PCRA affected when the OPERS rebalance feature is used?

Funds invested in the PCRA are not affected when using the rebalance feature associated with your OPERS retirement plan core investments. You will be responsible for adjusting those balances held in the PCRA mutual funds. Following a transfer of funds into the PCRA, you will need to reestablish the OPERS rebalance feature.

What do I need to do when I apply for retirement from or a refund of my Member-Directed or Combined Plan?

To speed up the processing of your retirement or refund, you will need to liquidate your mutual fund holdings in your PCRA and move those assets back to your OPERS core investments. Your retirement or refund will not be processed until you move the assets.

¹ For participants who utilize the Personal Choice Retirement Account (PCRA), the following fees and conditions may apply: Schwab's short-term redemption fee of \$49.95 will be charged on redemption of funds purchased through Schwab's Mutual Fund OneSource® service (and certain other funds with no transaction fee) and held for 90 days or less. Schwab reserves the right to exempt certain funds from this fee, including Schwab Funds®, which may charge a separate redemption fee, and funds that accommodate short-term trading.

Trades in no-load mutual funds available through Mutual Funds OneSource service (including Schwab Funds) as well as certain other funds, are available without transaction fees when placed through schwab.com or our automated phone channels. Schwab reserves the right to change the funds we make available without transaction fees and to reinstate fees on any funds. Funds are also subject to management fees and expenses.

Charles Schwab & Co., Inc., member SIPC, receives remuneration from fund companies for record keeping, shareholder services and other administrative services for shares purchased through its Mutual Fund OneSource service. Schwab also may receive remuneration from transaction fee fund companies for certain administrative services.

² Settled cash balances are swept to one or more Affiliated Banks after the close of business and begin earning interest on the following Business Day. Interest is compounded daily and credited on the 15th of each month (or the following Business Day if the 15th is not a Business Day). A "Business Day" is any Monday through Friday that is not a Federal Reserve Bank or New York Stock Exchange holiday. Bank Sweep for Benefit Plans deposits are held at one or more FDIC-insured banks ("Affiliated Banks") that are affiliated with Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. ("Schwab"). Investment products and services (including unswept or intra-day cash, net credit or debit balances, money market funds, and assets held in a Schwab Personal Choice Retirement Account®) are not deposits or obligations of the Affiliated Banks, are subject to investment risk, are not FDIC insured, may lose value, and are not Affiliated Bank-guaranteed. The Affiliated Banks and Schwab are separate but affiliated companies and subsidiaries of The Charles Schwab Corporation.

³ CDs from Schwab CD OneSource are issued by FDIC-insured institutions, and are subject to change and system access. Funds are FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 per depositor per insured institution, based on account ownership type. Visit www.fdic.gov for details. For most CDs, there are no additional commission charges when you buy a CD through Schwab CD OneSource. However, there may be costs and market value adjustments associated with early redemption.

Schwab Personal Choice Retirement Account® (PCRA) is offered through Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. (Member SIPC), a registered broker-dealer which also provides other brokerage and custody services to its customers.

Brokerage Products: Not FDIC Insured • No Bank Guarantee • May Lose Value

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