

You Can Take it With You When You Go!

It's hard to know where your career path will take you. You may enjoy a long career in an OPERS-covered position, or you could change jobs and move out-of-state. OPERS understands which is why we offer a number of options should you terminate public employment with us.



You can leave your account on deposit and continue to direct your investments. Then when you're ready to retire, you can choose to receive a monthly benefit or roll over your account balance to another account. You can even have the balance of your account sent directly to you with taxes withheld.

Or you can take it with you when you go.

You don't have to wait until you retire. If you leave Ohio public employment before you retire, you can take your retirement savings with you.

As a Member-Directed Plan participant, you have the option to transfer **all** your **employee contributions**, plus or minus any investment earnings or losses, to an eligible retirement account such as an IRA or governmental section 457(b) plan.

You may also receive a portion of your **employer contributions**, plus or minus any investment earnings or losses, depending on your number of years in the plan. The chart below outlines the current vesting schedule. Your non-vested employer contributions will be forfeited.

Upon terminating public employment, you will also have access to the vested funds in your **Retiree Medical Account**. You can then use these funds to pay for qualified health care expenses. The amount in your RMA you are entitled to use is based on your years of participation in the Member-Directed Plan and your date of hire or plan change effective date. For more information about the RMA, please refer to the Retiree Medical Account for Member-Directed Plan Participants fact sheet at www.opers.org.

Attained Years of Participation	Percentage Vested in Employer Contributions
Less than 1 year	0%
1 Year	20%
2 Years	40%
3 Years	60%
4 Years	80%
5 Years	100%

If you'd like more information about refunding or rolling over your account balance, visit the Member Publications page of opers.org to view the *Terminating Public Employment* leaflet.

How to Manage Debt (and Still Have Fun)

Yes, it's true: spending money is fun. Buying a new TV, treating yourself to a massage, taking a vacation—all of these things can feel, well, awesome. Especially when you're rewarding yourself for the hard work you do. But going into debt to be good to yourself? That takes a little of the shine off the experience, doesn't it? Fortunately, it's possible to enjoy life and manage debt, at the same time! You're a grown up, so you probably don't need to be reminded why racking up debt is a bad idea. But it never hurts to recap a few ways to reign in your personal debt and stay on track to help meet your long-term goals:

Set up a budget to track your expenses and spending.

Try our online Home Budget and Savings Calculator to get started. It's easy to use and it even gives you a chart showing where your money is going.

Use cash for everyday purchases like groceries and eating out. You'll automatically start to rein in your spending when the money comes right out of your pocket.



Carefully monitor your credit card spending each month. Try not to spend more than you can pay off in full each month.

Pay more than the minimum amount due. Paying just the monthly minimum on credit cards can add extra years to pay off your balance because of all the additional compounded interest you are paying.

Pay off the credit card with the highest interest rate first. Then pay off the card with the next highest rate. You want to pay off highest interest rates first because they eat up more of your income.

Pay off credit cards and short-term debt before paying off home mortgages. Interest paid on short-term debt is not tax-deductible. But mortgage interest is.

Avoid paying off credit cards by borrowing against your home or 401k. Your home and retirement are important assets. Try not to put them at risk.

As you pay off your credit cards, keep paying into your savings and retirement plans. If you don't have a retirement plan, it's easy to open up an IRA account. An IRA lets you save for your retirement without paying taxes on the money your savings could earn while in the IRA.



A little debt is OK (and sometimes unavoidable). It's part of life. The key is to manage debt while you continue to save. Create a balance and you can treat yourself now and then, while preparing for bigger goals like buying a home, tuition, retirement and more.



Quarterly Statements to Include Monthly Retirement Projection

Beginning this month, you will see an estimated monthly retirement benefit projection on your quarterly statement. The projection will take your current vested account balance, add in future contributions using your current salary and assume a 6 percent rate of return until your earliest retirement eligibility age (age 55 or older). Then it will convert the balance at retirement into an estimated monthly benefit. This projection will appear once you have made contributions for 12 months. Please keep in mind annuity factors are subject to change each year and investment returns cannot be predicted.

OPERS Lowering Rate of Return

Like many other pension plans, OPERS is reducing its investment return expectations because of changes in the global economy. This adjustment in OPERS' expected rate of return is part of our continuing effort to keep our pension plan healthy and sustainable, and is part of a regular review cycle. To learn more, visit our YouTube channel (OhioPERS1) to view a brief video with Executive Director Karen Carraher.



OPERS News

OPERS News is a quarterly newsletter providing news and information to active members of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. This publication allows us to communicate vital information concerning retirement benefits to our active members and also educate them on the services we provide.

This newsletter is written in plain language for use by members of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. It is not intended as a substitute for federal or state law, nor will its interpretation prevail should a conflict arise between it and the Ohio Revised Code, Ohio Administrative Code or Internal Revenue Code. If you have questions about this material, please contact our office or seek legal advice from your attorney.

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OPERSNEWS

News and information for active members in the
OPERS Member-Directed Plan.



*If you no longer wish to receive a paper copy of your newsletter and would like to receive the electronic version, log into your OPERS online account and **update your correspondence preferences to electronic.***

Manage Your Debt – While Still Having Fun!

It is possible to enjoy life and manage debt at the same time! Turn to page 2 to learn how you can reign in your personal debt and still stay on track to meet your long-term goals.

