



## Are You Using Your OPERS ID?

Your 11-digit OPERS ID is a unique identifier designed to increase the security of your personal information. This unique identifier can be used in many instances from verifying your identity over the phone to submitting OPERS forms, and will remain with you throughout your entire OPERS membership. You can find your OPERS ID on the home page of your online account. You will have the option to use your OPERS ID if you are not comfortable using your Social Security number, or you can continue using your SSN as your identifier.



## OPERS Legislative Update

The Ohio General Assembly has been faced with a number of issues in 2018.

Recently, the state legislature agreed on a bi-partisan plan to reform the process for drawing congressional districts that will be put before voters during the upcoming May 8 primary election. They have now begun work on a biennial capital budget bill that will fund many public construction projects around the state. House and Senate leadership also recently announced major legislation to restructure the public education system and the departments that oversee it.

During this time OPERS continues to advocate for **House Bill 413**, educating legislators about the COLA recommendations that will strengthen the financial health of the pension fund. Several hearings have been held and OPERS continues to address questions and work toward passage of a final bill.

The OPERS Government Relations staff is also monitoring other OPERS-related bills that have been introduced this year. **House Bill 486**, introduced by Rep. Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood), would add Emergency Medical Service workers to the OPERS public safety division. EMS workers employed by OPERS-covered employers are currently in the general division. We have discussed the proposed legislation with the sponsor and interested parties and have expressed our concerns, particularly about the impact H.B. 486, as written, would have on OPERS' unfunded liability. We will continue to monitor H.B. 486 and advocate for the General Assembly to address these issues in a broader context.

Visit the Government Relations section of [opers.org](http://opers.org) for additional information on legislative issues we are tracking.

## OPERS News

OPERS News is a quarterly newsletter providing news and information to retired members of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. This publication allows us to communicate vital information concerning retirement benefits to our members.

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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## Saving for Retirement

Learn how to estimate your retirement income and expenses so you can start saving more

Financial experts suggest that the average person will need 80 percent or more of their working income in retirement. *What does that 80 percent look like? How do I know if that's going to be enough? What can I do to save more?* These are questions you may be asking yourself and OPERS can help you answer those questions so you can plan for you retirement expenses and save more.

### What does 80 percent of my working income look like?

Your 2017 annual statement has a new feature this year which shows you not only the estimated dollar amount, but also the percentage of your estimated final average salary you will receive if you choose to retire with a reduced or unreduced benefit, or if you continue working a few years longer until ages 65 and 67. This will help you get a better idea of what that 80 percent of your FAS will look like when you retire.

See opposite page for sample of new annual statement feature.

### OPERS Board of Trustees

For more information on the OPERS Board of Trustees, visit [www.opers.org](http://www.opers.org).

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*Karen Carraher*  
Executive Director

**Keep an eye out for your 2017 annual statement**

Statements began mailing in late March and will continue through April, but you can also view your statement now by logging into your online account and selecting the Documents tab.

YOUR RETIREMENT BENEFIT ESTIMATES				
	EARLIEST RETIREMENT (REDUCED)	EARLIEST RETIREMENT (UNREDUCED)	IF YOU CONTINUE WORKING UNTIL AGE 65	IF YOU CONTINUE WORKING UNTIL AGE 67
DATE	05/01/2034	08/01/2039	05/01/2042	05/01/2044
AGE	57	62	65	67
SERVICE CREDIT	26.811	32.061	34.811	36.811
FINAL AVERAGE SALARY (FAS)	\$66,926	\$70,516	\$72,471	\$73,968
MONTHLY PENSION	\$1,678	\$4,145	\$4,625	\$5,025
% OF FAS	30%	71%	77%	82%

**NEW!**

**How do I know if that’s going to be enough?**

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the majority of an average retiree’s average annual expenses are spent on housing, transportation, health care and food. What will your expenses look like in retirement and will you have enough to cover those expenses?

As a Combined Plan participant, you have access to Voya’s myOrangeMoney tool which can help you get an idea of what your retirement account will look like in the future and compare your estimated monthly income with what you think you may need in retirement. To access the tool, log into your OPERS online account and click on the link to view the defined contribution portion of your account. From there, click “Home” to go to the account summary page where you will see the orange dollar.

For more information on the myOrangeMoney tool, including a brief tutorial visit the Educational Opportunities page of [opers.org](http://opers.org).

**\$2,600** Monthly projected income      **\$3,000** Estimated monthly goal      **\$400** A difference of



Voya’s myOrangeMoney tool

**What can I do to save more?**

Take advantage of Ohio Deferred Compensation. As an OPERS member you have a unique opportunity to contribute to Ohio Deferred Compensation, a 457(b) retirement plan specifically for Ohio public employees. This plan is an easy way to supplement your pension.

Ohio Deferred Compensation provides you with educational tools, a diverse set of investment options, flexible savings and withdrawal options, as well as portability when changing jobs within the public sector. OPERS and Ohio Deferred Compensation even share the same Board members, so the same people looking out for your retirement are looking out for your savings. To learn more about Ohio Deferred Compensation, visit [ohio457.org](http://ohio457.org) or call 1-877-644-6457.

You can also work a few more years. Working longer – even just three to five years longer – can increase your monthly retirement benefit. To see just how much, check out the front page of your 2017 annual statement. You’ll be able to see how much more you can earn if you work beyond your earliest eligibility for both a reduced and unreduced benefit.

Planning for retirement takes careful thought and preparation. We will continue developing new resources and education, such as our financial wellness workshops, to make sure you are well prepared for your retirement.



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First quarter 2018

# OPERSNEWS

News and information for active members in the  
OPERS Combined 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.**

## Saving for Retirement

Experts say the average person will need 80 percent or more of their working income in retirement. *What does that 80 percent look like? Will it be enough? How can you save more?* Let OPERS help you answer those questions.

