

PSERS Plan Review

Brief Plan Overview

This handout provides a high-level overview of the eligibility, membership, and benefit provisions of the Public Safety Employees' Retirement System (PSERS). It is not intended as an exhaustive plan description. Please consult the statutes or the Department of Retirement Systems (DRS) Plan Handbook for complete details.

Eligibility

PSERS is a Defined Benefit (DB) plan created in 2004 for public employees with limited law enforcement authority, and who are not eligible for membership in the Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' Plan (LEOFF).

To be eligible for PSERS, an employee must:

- ❖ Serve as a corrections officer or limited-authority peace officer.
- ❖ Be employed by a PSERS employer.

The current list of PSERS employers includes the following agencies.

- ❖ Department of Corrections.
- ❖ Parks and Recreation Commission.
- ❖ Gambling Commission.
- ❖ Washington State Patrol.
- ❖ Liquor Control Board.
- ❖ Washington state counties.
- ❖ Washington state cities.
 - ◆ Except for Seattle, Tacoma and Spokane.

Membership

As of June 30, 2010, there are 4,210 active members of PSERS. PSERS is a comparatively young plan, and only four members have retired.

Beginning July 1, 2006, all newly-hired PSERS-eligible employees are members of PSERS. Employees hired prior to that date were members of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS). Those employees were given the limited opportunity to transfer to PSERS or remain in PERS. Of those eligible to transfer, 1,860 members did so. A second transfer window was created when the Department of Natural

Resources (DNR) was added to the list of PSERS employers, and four employees from DNR made the transfer.

Summary of Plan Provisions

The following table presents a high-level summary of the PSERS plan provisions and is not meant to be an exhaustive list. For complete details on plan provisions, please refer to the statutes or the DRS [PSERS Plan Handbook](#).

PSERS	
Plan 2*	
Effective Date of Plan	7/1/06
Date Closed to New Entrants	Open
Statutory Reference	Chapter 41.37 RCW
Normal Retirement Eligibility (age/service)	65/5 Total Service, 60/10 PSERS service
Accrued Benefit Formula	2% x YOS x AFC
Computation of AFS	Average compensation earnable for the highest 60 consecutive months
Credited Service	Monthly, based on hours worked each month
Vesting	5 years
Vested Benefits Upon Termination	Refund of employee contributions plus interest, or deferred retirement allowance
Early Retirement Eligibility (age/service)	53/20 Total Service
Early Retirement Reduction Factors	3% ERF with 20 YOS, otherwise actuarial
Disability Retirement Benefit	Accrued benefit, actuarially reduced from age 60
COLA	Lesser of CPI** or 3%

* Technically, it is PSERS "Plan 2," but there is no Plan 1. The designation of Plan 2 is in line with Washington's other DB plans.

**CPI: Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers, Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA - All Items.

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