

## Annual COLA

- Each July 1, eligible retired members will receive an automatic COLA up to an increase of 2 percent if the Consumer Price Index for Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI) as of the previous December 31 is at least 2 percent
- If the CPI is less than 2 percent, the COLA will equal the actual increase in the CPI
- COLAs are paid only during periods of inflation



Your retirement benefit is guaranteed by law and based on a formula, not your account balance at retirement.

## Retirement Eligibility

- You can retire after 28 years of service or at age 65
- You can retire early (before age 65 or 28 years of service) and receive a reduced retirement benefit
- Members eligible for service retirement may choose to participate in the Teacher and Employee Retiree Incentive (TERI) program which allows you to retire and begin accumulating your annuity on a deferred basis without ending your employment

## To Find Out More

- Contact your human resources office
- Contact the South Carolina Retirement Systems at 803-737-6800 or 800-868-9002 (within SC only) or visit us at 202 Arbor Lake Drive, Columbia, SC 29223
- Log on to the Retirement Systems' Web site at [www.retirement.sc.gov](http://www.retirement.sc.gov)

**THE INFORMATION IN THIS BROCHURE IS MEANT TO SERVE AS A GUIDE AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A BINDING REPRESENTATION OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA RETIREMENT SYSTEMS. TITLE 9 OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS CONTAINS A COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF THE RETIREMENT BENEFITS, THEIR TERMS AND CONDITIONS, AND GOVERNS ALL RETIREMENT BENEFITS OFFERED BY THE STATE. STATE STATUTES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. CONTACT THE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS FOR THE MOST CURRENT INFORMATION.**

SOUTH CAROLINA  
RETIREMENT SYSTEMS



SC BUDGET AND CONTROL BOARD

## South Carolina Retirement Systems

P.O. Box 11960  
Columbia, SC 29211-1960  
803-737-6800  
800-868-9002 (within SC only)

7/09

## Defined benefit plans are more cost effective:

A recent study revealed that defined benefit plans can deliver the same retirement income to a group of employees at 46 percent lower cost than individual defined contribution accounts.

*(The study, "A Better Bang for the Buck: The Economic Efficiencies of Defined Benefit Pension Plans," published August 14, 2008, by the National Institute on Retirement Security).*

Information Online,  
All the Time:

[www.retirement.sc.gov](http://www.retirement.sc.gov)

# SOUTH CAROLINA RETIREMENT SYSTEM



SOUTH CAROLINA  
RETIREMENT SYSTEMS



SC BUDGET AND CONTROL BOARD

# Retiring South Carolina's Public Workforce For Life

**THE LANGUAGE USED IN THIS BROCHURE DOES NOT CREATE ANY CONTRACTUAL RIGHTS OR ENTITLEMENTS AND DOES NOT CREATE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE MEMBER AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA RETIREMENT SYSTEMS. THE SOUTH CAROLINA RETIREMENT SYSTEMS RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REVISE THE CONTENT OF THIS BROCHURE.**



The South Carolina Retirement System (SCRS) is a defined benefit retirement plan administered by the South Carolina Retirement Systems. This brochure provides a general introduction to SCRS and its benefits.

## Benefits

- Retirement benefit is guaranteed by law and pre-funded
- Retirement benefit is based on a formula (1.82 percent multiplied by years of service multiplied by average final compensation), not on a member's account balance at retirement
- Automatic annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for retirees
- Plan assumes investment and life expectancy risks
- Ability to purchase service
- Disability and life insurance protection
- Deferred retirement option program - allows you to retire and begin accumulating your annuity on a deferred basis without quitting work

## Membership Eligibility

- Employer must be covered by SCRS
- You must be actively employed by a covered employer and making contributions to SCRS

## Contributions

- You contribute a tax-deferred 6.5 percent of gross pay
- If you have not retired, your account earns 4 percent interest compounded annually

## Service Purchase

- Members may be eligible to purchase various types of service credit
- Examples of service that may be purchased include military service,

public service and previously withdrawn SCRS service

- Purchasing service increases your total credited service which may allow you to retire sooner, and may increase your monthly benefit
- The cost to purchase service varies by type

## Group Life Insurance

- Beneficiaries of active members and working retirees receive a payment equal to a year's salary after one year of service
- If death is a result of a job-related injury, the one-year requirement is waived
- Non-working retirees are also eligible for coverage of \$2,000, \$4,000 or

\$6,000 based on their years of service

- Check with your employer to see if they provide this protection

## Leaving before Retirement

If you terminate employment, you can either:

- request a refund of your contributions and interest; or
- leave your money in the Retirement Systems where it will earn an annual 4 percent interest

## Payment Plans

- Three plans available
- Two of the three plans provide survivor protection
- You select the one that best suits your needs

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**This brochure contains an abbreviated description of the retirement benefits offered by the South Carolina Retirement System. For more detailed information, go to: [www.retirement.sc.gov](http://www.retirement.sc.gov)**

## Economic Impact

The Retirement Systems disburses more than \$2 billion in benefits annually, which is more than the personal income derived in the Palmetto State each year from farming, forestry, fishing, and utilities, combined (*Based on Bureau of Economic Analysis data for 2007*).

## Our Investments

Assets are prudently invested by the South Carolina Retirement System Investment Commission to maximize our returns.