

KPERS 1  
KPERS 2



Getting Ready to *Retire*

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KPERS Pre-Retirement **Planning Guide**

## Countdown to Retirement Checklist

- Attend a pre-retirement seminar.** Our pre-retirement seminars are designed to help you navigate the last steps to retirement. Each free seminar covers a variety of topics directly related to your KPERS retirement.
- Find out when you are eligible to retire.** Knowing when you'll meet the age and service requirements to retire can help you decide on the best retirement date.
- Calculate a retirement benefit estimate.** You can calculate your own estimate online by logging in to your personal account at [kpers.org](http://kpers.org). You can also complete a Benefit Estimate Request form (KPERS-15E) and we can calculate an estimate for you. Your employer can help you complete the form with the most accurate pay information. Please allow 4 weeks to process.
- Review the KPERS Retirement Options publication to understand your benefit payment options.** You can use the benefit calculator at [kpers.org](http://kpers.org) to see how taking a partial lump-sum option or providing a benefit for someone after your death affect your benefit amount.
- Complete an Application for Retirement Benefits form (KPERS-15).** Submit your application at least 30 days before your retirement date. You need to apply to receive your benefits. They do not begin automatically. You will need to provide birth and name change documents.
- Review your life insurance.** If you would like to continue your basic and optional group life insurance in retirement, you have two options: keep your group coverage and pay an increased premium or convert your coverage to an individual policy. See your employer or our web site for more information on your choices.
- Determine your tax/withholding requirements.** In general, your benefits will be subject to federal income taxes, but not Kansas state income taxes. If you are going to live in another state, check if your retirement benefit is taxable in that state.
- Confirm your Social Security benefits.** Get accurate information about Social Security applications and benefits by calling the Social Security Administration's toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 or contacting your local SSA office.
- Determine your health insurance needs.** If you have been with your current employer for ten years or more, Kansas law allows you to remain in your current health plan by paying the entire premium. Contact your employer's personnel office for more information. If you're close to age 65, check into your Medicare options at your local Social Security office.
- Review your other retirement income sources.** You'll need a method for turning your retirement savings and investments into income. Different plans have different payout options and requirements. To figure out the best way to supplement your KPERS benefits, you'll need to consider all your options. To learn more, contact your plan administrator.

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## Contacting Us

We're here to answer your questions and help in any way we can. Our offices are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The InfoLine is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Your questions, comments and suggestions are always welcome.

Web Site: [kpers.org](http://kpers.org)  
Toll Free: 1-888-275-5737  
In Topeka: 785-296-6166  
Email: [kpers@kpers.org](mailto:kpers@kpers.org)  
Mail: 611 S. Kansas Ave., Suite 100,  
Topeka, KS 66603-3869

## Access Your KPERs Account Online



Login through [kpers.org](http://kpers.org) to:

- Download your annual statement
- Create personalized benefit estimates
- Review your beneficiaries

After you're a retiree:

- Change direct deposit and tax withholding information
- Print your 1099-R
- Update contact information
- Track payment history

## Keeping Your Personal Information Up-to-Date

Even though your retirement benefits will be deposited directly into your account after you retire, be sure to let us know if your contact information changes. Always include the following information:

- Name
- Last four digits of your Social Security number
- Daytime phone number
- Monthly retirement benefit amount
- Previous address
- New address
- Your signature (if mailing)

We cannot accept changes from anyone other than a member or a person who has Power of Attorney for a member. KPERs must have a certified copy of the Power of Attorney authorization.

## Annual Statements

Each spring, you should receive a Retirement System annual statement through your employer. Your annual statement shows your contributions and earned interest, years of service, current final average salary and beneficiary information. As you near retirement, your statement is an important tool to help you plan for your future, and we encourage you to review it carefully. Your most recent annual statement is helpful when using KPERs' online benefit calculator. You can download recent annual statements through the online account access at [kpers.org](http://kpers.org).

## Disability vs. Retirement

Long-term disability coverage through KPERS is one of your valuable employee benefits. If you are retiring because of health reasons, talk with your employer or a KPERS representative about your options. To qualify for disability benefits for the first 24 months, you must be disabled from performing the duties of your *current* job. After 24 months, you must be disabled from performing the duties of *any* job to continue receiving benefits.

## KPERS 1 – When Can You Retire?

- Age 65 with at least one year of service credit
- Age 62 with at least ten years of service credit
- Any age when your age and years of service credit added together equal 85 (see “How to Calculate Your 85 Points”)

### Are You a KPERS 1 Member?

- ✓ Hired before July 1, 2009
- ✓ Active member on July 1, 2009

**Please note:** Two service quarters round to one year. Your age is determined by your last birthday and is not rounded up.

### Retiring Early

You can receive reduced benefits at age 55 with at least ten years of service, even without the 85 points. Keep in mind your benefits will be permanently reduced.

- Benefits are reduced by 0.6% for each month you are between age 55 and 60.
- Benefits are reduced by 0.2% for each month you are between age 60 and 62.

If You Retire Early ... KPERS 1		
Age	Example	Reduction
62	Full benefit = \$1,500/month	0%
60	Reduced benefit = \$1,425/month	5%
55	Reduced benefit = \$885/month	41%

### How to Calculate Your “85 Points”

KPERS 1 members can retire anytime with “85 points.” The 85 point rule is when your age and years of service added together equal 85. Every year you work, you will gain two points – one for each birthday and one for the year of service credit. The 85 point rule is only one of the three ways you can qualify for retirement.

### Use this worksheet to find out when you’ll have 85 points

1. Your current age: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Your current years of service: \_\_\_\_\_
3. \*Your current point total (Line 1 + Line 2): \_\_\_\_\_
4. Number of points needed (85 - Line 3): \_\_\_\_\_
5. Number of years to reach 85 points (Line 4 ÷ 2): \_\_\_\_\_
6. Your current age (same as Line 1): \_\_\_\_\_
7. You will have 85 points at age (Line 5 + Line 6): \_\_\_\_\_

\* If line 3 equals 85 or greater, you can retire now with full benefits.

#### Example

John is 50 years old.  
 He has 25 years of service.  
 $50 + 25 = 75$  points now  
 $85 - 75 = 10$  points needed  
 $10 \div 2 = 5$  years to go  
 50 years old  
 $50 + 5 = 55$  years old  
 John can retire at age 55 with 30 years of service.

## KPERS 2 – When Can You Retire?

- Age 65 with five years of service credit
- Age 60 with 30 years of service credit

**Please note:** Two service quarters round to one year. Your age is determined by your last birthday and is not rounded up.

### Are You a KPERS 2 Member?

- ✓ Hired on or after July 1, 2009
- ✓ Active member on July 1, 2009 and before January 1, 2015

### Retiring Early

You can receive reduced benefits beginning at age 55 with ten years of service. The earlier you retire, the more your benefit is reduced. If you retire before age 60 with **at least** 30 years of service, there is less of a reduction to your benefit.

If You Retire Early ... KPERS 2				
Age	Example - less than 30 years of service	Reduction	Example - at least 30 years of service	Reduction
65	Full benefit = \$1,500/month	0%	Full benefit = \$1,500/month	0%
60	Reduced benefit = \$920/month	38.6%	Full benefit = \$1,500/month	0%
55	Reduced benefit = \$583/month	61.6%	Reduced benefit = \$1,225/month	18.3%

## Calculating Your Retirement Benefit

KPERS retirement benefits are calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Final average salary} \times \text{statutory multiplier} \times \text{years of service} = \text{annual benefit}$$

If you are a KPERS 1 member:

- Service before January 1, 2014, has a statutory multiplier of 1.75%.
- Service after January 1, 2014, has a statutory multiplier of 1.85%.

### KPERS 1 Example

$$\begin{array}{rclclcl}
 \text{Final average salary} & \times & \text{statutory multiplier} & \times & \text{years of service} & = & \text{annual benefit} \\
 \$35,000 & \times & 1.75\% & \times & 26 & = & \$15,925 \\
 \$35,000 & \times & 1.85\% & \times & 4 & = & \underline{\$2,590} \\
 & & \text{total annual benefit} & & & = & \underline{\$18,515}
 \end{array}$$

If you are a KPERS 2 member:

- All service has a statutory multiplier of 1.85%.

### KPERS 2 Example

$$\begin{array}{rclclcl}
 \text{Final average salary} & \times & \text{statutory multiplier} & \times & \text{years of service} & = & \text{annual benefit} \\
 \$35,000 & \times & 1.85\% & \times & 30 & = & \$19,425
 \end{array}$$

You can calculate a benefit estimate by logging in to your personal account at [kpers.org](http://kpers.org). The benefit calculator uses your personal data to create quick, accurate estimates.

## Your Final Average Salary

In addition to your years of service and your statutory multiplier, your final average salary is one of the factors used when calculating retirement benefits.

### KPERS 1

If your membership date is on or after July 1, 1993, your final average salary is:

- A three-year salary average **excluding** additional compensation.\* This three-year average is based on your three highest years of pay during your career. They do not have to be continuous years.

If your membership date is before July 1, 1993, or you were in your “year of service” waiting for membership on July 1, 1993, your final average salary is the higher of:

- A three-year salary average **excluding** additional compensation.\* This three-year average is based on your three highest years of pay during your career. They do not have to be continuous years.
- A four-year salary average **including** additional compensation.\* This four-year average is based on your four highest years of pay during your career. They do not have to be continuous years.

KPERS will calculate both options and use whichever is higher to calculate your retirement benefit. If add-on pay is included in your final average salary, it is spread over all the days that you worked in the calendar year you retired. It is not credited only to the quarter in which you were paid for it.

\***Additional Compensation** or “add-on pay” is compensation from your employer for unused sick leave, annual leave, etc. KPERS *cannot* use an early retirement incentive or severance pay as part of add-on pay when calculating your final average salary.

**School Employees:** School employees under a contract have special guidelines. This includes faculty, principals and superintendents. If your position requires a teaching certificate, then you are included in this group.

Generally, employees who remain on the payroll through the end of their contract can include “add-on pay” in their final average salary. Employees who retire before completing their contract cannot use “add-on pay” in their final average salary. The end of their contract may or may not coincide with the end of the school year.

### KPERS 2

Your final average salary is an average of your five highest years of salary, excluding additional compensation, such as payments for unused sick and annual leave.

### Final Average Salary Cap

If your salary increases substantially from year to year, a cap on compensation may be used to calculate your final average salary. Generally, the cap applies when your salary changes and your position does not. For KPERS 1, the cap is 15%. For KPERS 2, the cap is 7.5%.

## Choosing Your Retirement Date

Your retirement date can be the first day of any month, as long as you are off your employer’s payroll. School members under the continuing contract law must wait until June 1 or after. When choosing your retirement date, keep in mind that any remainder after your quarters of service are converted to years of service is rounded up or down. Sometimes working even a few more days can make a difference and could mean an extra year of service used for calculating your retirement benefit.

## Increasing Your Benefit (Purchasing Service Credit)

You may be able to increase your retirement benefit and possibly retire earlier by purchasing service credit for your past public service. If your service is eligible, you can purchase service credit with a lump-sum payment or by making additional contributions to the Retirement System through payroll deduction. The cost is based on actuarial factors and tables. Only active, contributing members may purchase service credit, and all payments must be received on or before your last day on your employer's payroll.

Benefit of Purchasing Service Credit				
	KPERS 1 (1.75% multiplier)		KPERS 2 (1.85% multiplier)	
Your final average salary	For each additional year of service, your benefit increases by ...			
\$30,000	\$43.75 per month	\$525 per year	\$46.75 per month	\$555 per year
\$50,000	\$73 per month	\$875 per year	\$77 per month	\$925 per year
\$70,000	\$102 per month	\$1,225 per year	\$108 per month	\$1,295 per year

### Types of Service Credit You Can Purchase

- "Year of Service" (First year worked to become eligible for membership. Only for non-school members who worked in a covered position before July 1, 2009.)
- Forfeited KPERS service (years you "withdrew" from KPERS if you left the System for a while)
- Military service
- Elected official service
- Out-of-state teaching
- In-state or out-of-state non-federal public service
- Forfeited TIAA-CREF (Board of Regents) service
- VISTA and Peace Corps
- Waiting period for Regents plan eligibility

### Military Service

Members can purchase year for year of **active** military service and one quarter of service credit for each year of military **reserve** service. In certain circumstances, Kansas law allows the Retirement System to grant active military service at no cost to you if the military service interrupts your public service. You must be employed in a covered position immediately before and immediately after the active military service. You must be off your employer's payroll during this military service to have service credit granted. Granted service is limited to five years. You can purchase up to six years of military service regardless of how many years are granted.

### Payment Options

- Payroll deduction over a period of time, pre-tax
- Rollover or trustee-to-trustee transfer from another retirement plan. Eligible plans include a governmental 457(b) plan such as the Kansas Public Employees Deferred Compensation plan, a 403(b) annuity or an individual retirement account (IRA), pre-tax
- Lump sum (personal check, money order or Discover Card) after taxes



## Federal Tax Requirements on Service Purchases

KPERS is a “qualified plan” under federal tax provisions. Under a qualified plan, members make contributions on a pre-tax basis and interest grows tax-deferred. Federal law may limit your lump-sum payment if you are purchasing service with **after-tax** money.

## The Purchase Process

1. Contact your employer to see if your past service is eligible.
2. If your service is eligible, complete an Application to Purchase Service Credit (KPERS-67) form.
3. Your employer completes the employer part of the form and sends it to the Retirement System.
4. The Retirement System calculates your purchase cost and sends a letter to you through your employer. Be sure to weigh the cost and benefit before continuing with the purchase.
5. To complete the purchase, you sign the necessary paperwork, arrange for payment and return both to the Retirement System.
6. The Retirement System receives your payment or payroll deduction commitment.
7. The Retirement System adds service to your record after the purchase is completed.

## Retirement Benefit Payment Options

As a retired KPERS member, you will receive a monthly retirement benefit for the rest of your life. In addition, KPERS has retirement payment options that add financial flexibility and allow you to provide for loved ones after your death. **The decision about which option to take is crucial, because once you make a choice, you cannot change it.**

### Scenario for All of Our Examples

Here is the scenario we’ll use for all of our payment option examples:

Dan is a KPERS 1 member retiring at age 65. His wife, Sue, is age 62. Dan’s final average salary is \$39,216, and he has 26 years of service. His retirement benefit is calculated using the following formula:

<b>Final average salary</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>statutory multiplier</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>years of service</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>annual benefit</b>
\$39,216	x	1.75%	x	22	=	\$15,098
\$39,216	x	1.85%	x	4	=	<u>\$2,902</u>
		<b>total annual benefit</b>			<b>=</b>	<b>\$18,000</b>

If Dan were a KPERS 2 member, his benefit would be calculated with all service at the 1.85% statutory multiplier.

### Maximum Monthly Benefit Option

KPERS will first establish your maximum monthly benefit amount. This amount will provide the basis for the rest of your options. You can choose to stay with this maximum monthly benefit amount without any survivor options. You will then receive a payment each month for this same amount for the rest of your life. After your death, your beneficiary will receive the balance of any remaining money that you contributed to KPERS. **There is no continued benefit after your death.**

#### Example

Dan’s annual benefit is \$18,000.  
 $\$18,000 \div 12 = \$1,500$  per month

## Joint-Survivor Options

You may want to provide a continuing monthly benefit for someone after your death. You can do this by choosing a joint-survivor option. Your survivor, also called a *joint annuitant*, cannot be changed once you retire. After your death, your survivor will receive a monthly benefit for the rest of his or her life.

### The three joint-survivor options:

- 50%
- 75%
- 100%

The percentages show your survivor's benefit amount compared to your benefit amount. Your survivor can receive 50% of your benefit amount or 75%. You can also choose the 100% option, and he or she will receive the same benefit amount that you received before your death.

In order to provide the continuing benefit, your regular monthly benefits will be reduced. The higher your survivor's benefit, the lower yours will be during retirement.

### If your named survivor dies first

If your named survivor dies before you, your survivor option is canceled and your benefit increases to your original maximum monthly benefit amount. You cannot name another person to receive a survivor benefit.

### Adjusting for age difference

The difference between your ages also affects your benefit amount. If your survivor is younger than you, your benefit will be decreased more than if your survivor is older. Actuarial tables and factors are used to calculate these adjustments.

#### Example - KPERS 1

Dan's maximum monthly benefit is \$1,500. He chooses the 50% joint-survivor option for his wife, Sue. Dan's benefit is reduced by a factor from an actuarial table to provide the survivor benefit and to adjust for the three-year age difference.

Dan's monthly maximum	\$	1,500
Reduced for survivor benefit and age difference	x	.898
Dan's adjusted monthly benefit	\$	1,347
Sue's monthly survivor benefit (50% of Dan's)	\$	673.50

#### Example - KPERS 2

Dan's maximum monthly benefit is \$1,500. He chooses the 50% joint-survivor option for his wife, Sue. Dan's benefit is reduced by a factor from an actuarial table to provide the survivor benefit and to adjust for the three-year age difference.

Dan's monthly maximum	\$	1,500
Reduced for survivor benefit and age difference	x	.931764
Dan's adjusted monthly benefit	\$	1398
Sue's monthly survivor benefit (50% of Dan's)	\$	699

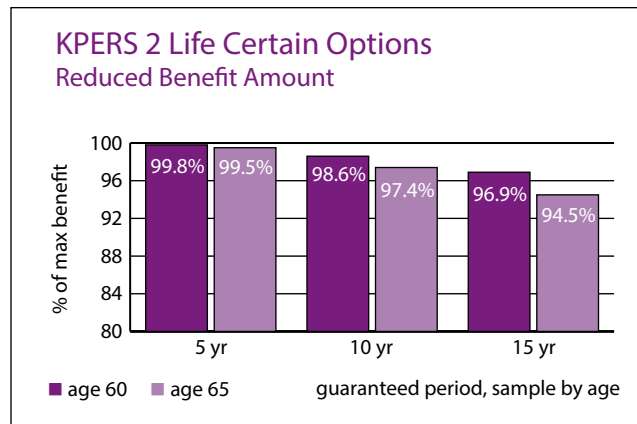
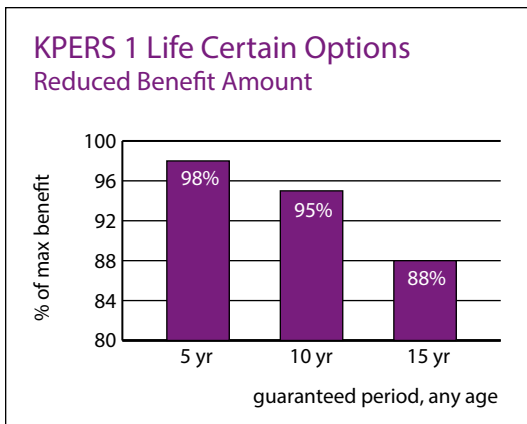
## Life-Certain Options

With a life-certain option, you'll receive a monthly benefit for the rest of your life. If you die within a guaranteed period of time from your retirement date, your beneficiary will receive the same monthly benefit you have been receiving for the rest of the guaranteed period. You can change beneficiaries at any time, and you can have any number of beneficiaries at once. They will share the benefit equally.

The three life-certain options:

- Five-year period
- Ten-year period
- 15-year period

In order to provide the continuing benefit, your regular monthly benefits will be reduced. The longer the guaranteed period, the more your benefit is reduced. The KPERS 2 benefit option is also affected by your age at retirement. The older you are, the more your benefit is reduced. The KPERS 1 option uses fixed percentages to calculate adjustments. KPERS 2 uses actuarial tables and factors.



**Example**

Dan’s maximum monthly benefit is \$1,500. He chooses the ten-year life certain option for his wife, Sue. Dan’s benefit is reduced to 95% to provide the survivor benefit. He receives \$1,425 a month for the rest of his life, no matter how long he lives.

Dan dies seven years after he retires. As his chosen beneficiary, Sue will receive \$1,425 a month for three more years. Dan’s seven years plus Sue’s three total the ten years Dan was guaranteed. If Dan had named his two daughters as beneficiaries instead of Sue, the daughters would share the \$1,425 monthly benefit and each would receive \$712.50 a month for three years.

If Dan were a KPERS 2 member, his benefit would be reduced by the reduction factor for age 65 from an actuarial table (0.97398 or about 97.4%) for a monthly benefit of \$1,460.97.

**Partial Lump-Sum Option (PLSO)**

You can take part of your retirement benefit in an up-front lump sum at retirement. This lump sum is then combined with one of the other retirement options to provide reduced, regular monthly payments for the rest of your life. *Choosing the PLSO will reduce your monthly benefits, no matter which other option you choose.* A PLSO payment is taxable income unless directly rolled over into an eligible retirement account.

KPERS 1 members have the PLSO available in 10, 20, 30, 40 or 50% amounts. KPERS 2 members can choose a 10, 20 or 30% option. The percentage you select determines the size of the lump sum and the decrease in your monthly benefit.

**Example**

A 30% PLSO payment would result in a single lump-sum payment equal to 30% of the actuarial present value of your lifetime benefit, along with a permanent 30% reduction in your monthly benefit.

Dan’s maximum monthly benefit is \$1,500. He chooses a 30% lump sum with the maximum monthly benefit. Dan receives a lump sum of \$49,659 at retirement, and his monthly benefit is reduced by 30% to \$1,050.

Note: If you select a partial lump-sum option or a payment option where your spouse would receive less than one-half of your monthly retirement benefit when you die, your spouse’s notarized signature must be on your retirement application, signifying he or she knows the retirement benefit option you chose.

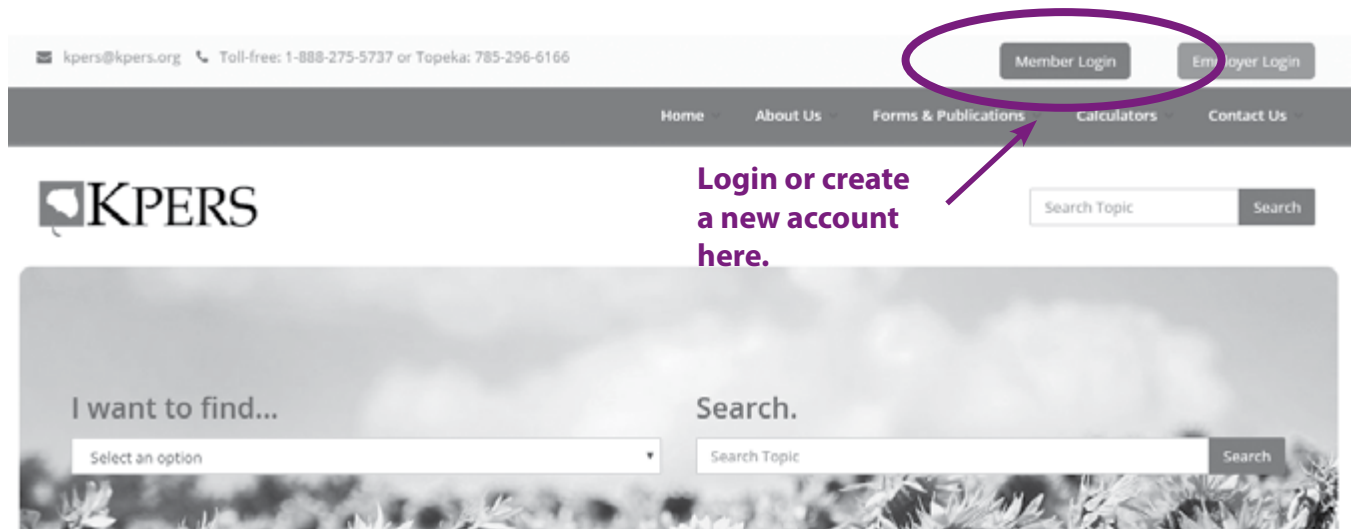
## Estimating Your Monthly Retirement Benefit

You can calculate an estimate through your online account or with the generic benefit calculator at [kpers.org](http://kpers.org). You can also submit a Benefit Estimate Request form (KPERS-15E), and we can calculate an estimate for you. Estimates are a wise step when considering your options.

Keep in mind that estimates are just estimates. They can vary from your actual benefit amount because of the accuracy of information. Your actual benefit is calculated when you apply for retirement.

### Account Access Calculator

Login to your online KPERS account through [kpers.org](http://kpers.org). When you start a new estimate, the system will automatically add your membership information, including the earliest date you are eligible for full retirement. You can use this pre-populated information or add your own. You can name and save estimates with different scenarios for future reference.



### After You Login to Your Account

From Your Homepage, select your account. You'll then see your Account Summary. To start a benefit estimate, click "Benefit Calculator" on the sidebar.

Account Summary (as of 12/19/2015)

Snapshot			
Account Balance	Total Service Credit	Membership Date	Status
\$53,492.46	22.50 years	02/18/1994	Active

Employee Contributions		
Taxed	Untaxed	*Interest
\$0.00	\$36,802.56	\$16,689.90

\*Includes interest credited to the account on 6/30/2015

Service Credit			
Type	Multiplier		
Earned	21.50 years	Service @ 1.75%	20.75 years
Purchased	1.00 years	Service @ 1.85%	1.75 years

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- KPERS Account**
- Account Summary
- Insurance/Disability
- Benefit Calculator**
- Annual Statements

## Enter Your Personal Information

Name your estimate in Step 1 if you wish to save it. You can use the pre-populated information or add your own.

### Step 2: What date do you plan to retire?

The earliest date you can receive a full retirement benefit is 01/01/2016.\*

- I will retire on 01/01/2016.
- I will retire on  (mm/dd/yyyy). Must be the first day of a month.

\*You may actually become eligible sometime in the previous year before this date due to earning additional service credit. Please check with your employer if you are nearing retirement and would like an exact eligibility date.

### Step 3: What is your final average salary?

Your current final average salary (FAS) is \$49,068.62. [What is FAS?](#)

- Use \$49,068.62 as my FAS.
- Use  as my FAS.
- Use  as my FAS with annual salary increase of  %

### Step 4: What is your total service credit?

Your current total service credit is 23.00 years.

Service @ 1.75% : 20.75

Service @ 1.85% : 1.75

Your projected total service credit is 25.00 years, if you continue working until your estimated retirement date shown above.

- Use the projected service based on the selected retirement date in **Step 2**
- Use 23.00, my total years of service as of 12/19/2015
- Use  as my total years of service.

### Step 5: Do you plan to provide a continuing benefit to a survivor?

- I do not plan to provide for a survivor. I want a benefit for my lifetime only.
- I plan to provide for a survivor. My survivor's date of birth is  (mm/dd/yyyy).

**Note:** Example is a KPERS 1 member. Statutory multiplier is 1.85% for KPERS 1 service earned after January 1, 2014.

## View Your Monthly and Lump-Sum Options

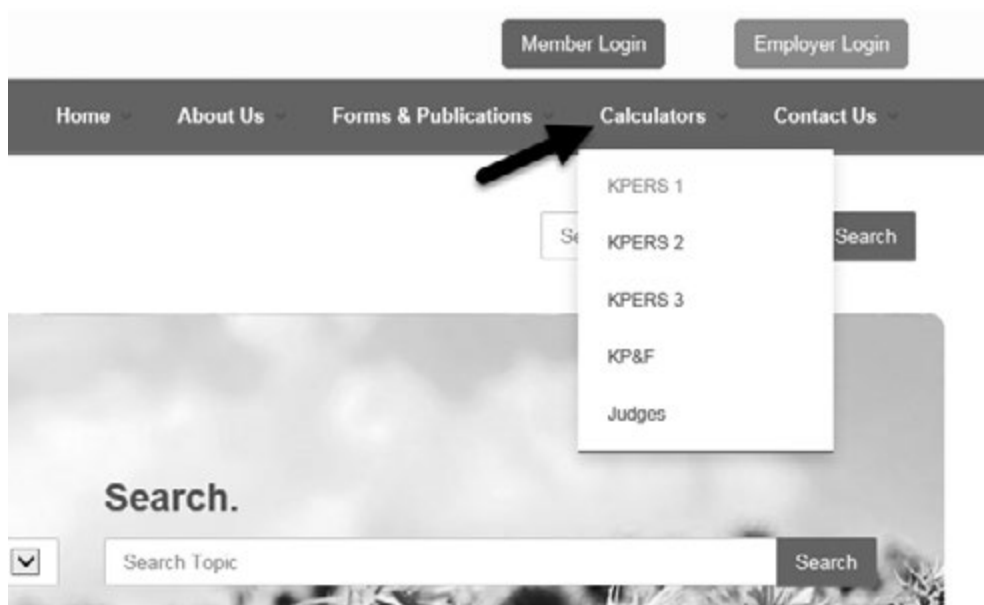
The higher your lump sum at retirement, the lower your monthly benefits will be.

Monthly benefits are also reduced to provide on-going survivor benefits after your death.

Calculate & Save		Download Estimate		Back		
<b>Retirement Date:</b> 01/01/2018						
<b>Retirement Age:</b> 68						
<b>Final Average Salary:</b> \$49,068.62						
<b>Total Service:</b> 25.00 years						
<b>Service @ 1.75%:</b> 21.00 years <b>Service @ 1.85%:</b> 4.00 years						
<b>Annual Benefit =</b> \$21,663.79						
<b>Monthly Benefit</b>						
Benefit Option	No Lump Sum	10% Lump Sum	20% Lump Sum	30% Lump Sum	40% Lump Sum	50% Lump Sum
PLSO	\$0.00	\$18,465.38	\$36,930.76	\$55,396.14	\$73,861.53	\$92,326.91
Maximum	\$1,805.32	\$1,624.78	\$1,444.25	\$1,263.72	\$1,083.19	\$902.66
50% Joint-Survivor	\$1,678.94	\$1,511.05	\$1,343.16	\$1,175.26	\$1,007.37	\$839.47
75% Joint-Survivor	\$1,615.76	\$1,454.18	\$1,292.61	\$1,131.03	\$969.45	\$807.88
100% Joint-Survivor	\$1,552.57	\$1,397.31	\$1,242.06	\$1,086.80	\$931.54	\$776.29
5-Year Life-Certain	\$1,769.21	\$1,592.29	\$1,415.37	\$1,238.45	\$1,061.53	\$884.60
10-Year Life-Certain	\$1,715.05	\$1,543.55	\$1,372.04	\$1,200.54	\$1,029.03	\$857.53
15-Year Life-Certain	\$1,588.68	\$1,429.81	\$1,270.94	\$1,112.07	\$953.21	\$794.34

## Generic KPERS 1 Calculator at kpers.org

Access the generic calculator on kpers.org. Links are below the Member Account login. With this calculator, you add your own information. Your last annual statement will be helpful.



## State and Federal Income Taxes

In general, Retirement System benefits, including the \$4,000 retiree death benefit, are subject to federal income tax, but not Kansas state income tax. This is because you already paid state taxes on your contributions while you were working. If you move to another state, check if your retirement benefit is taxable in that state. Your monthly benefit is taxable from the time your benefits begin. KPERS will withhold 20% for federal income tax from a lump-sum payment unless it is rolled over into an eligible plan. You may also be subject to an additional 10% tax if you are under age 59 1/2.

### Withholding Information

You can control how much tax is withheld by filing a Withholding Certificate for Pension Benefit Payments form (Substitute W-4P) with KPERS. The form is provided in the Application for Retirement Benefits booklet. You can also download one on our web site or contact KPERS for a paper form. You can change your withholding amount *anytime*. When completing the Substitute W-4P form, you must select a marital status and the number of exemptions. You can also add an additional flat amount for withholding, but you cannot just select a flat amount without marital status and exemptions.

**If your monthly benefit is \$1,760 or more**, KPERS will withhold federal tax, unless you file a Substitute W-4P form. You will receive the form when you retire. If you don't return the form by the deadline, KPERS is required to withhold taxes as if you are married and claiming three exemptions. If you choose not to have taxes withheld from your retirement benefit, you are still liable for federal income tax. You may also be subject to penalties under the "Estimated Tax Payment" rule if your withholdings are not high enough.

**If your monthly KPERS benefit is less than \$1,760 per month**, KPERS will not automatically withhold federal income tax. To have tax withheld, file a Substitute W-4P tax form with KPERS.

## Nontaxable Amounts

Part of your pension or PLSO payment will be considered nontaxable if you made any contributions on an after-tax basis.

You made contributions on an after-tax basis if you:

- Were a member before July 1984.
- Purchased service with a lump-sum payment other than a rollover or trustee-to-trustee transfer.

Federal law allows you to “recover” these amounts gradually without paying income tax on them again. A portion will be included in your PLSO payment (if you choose that option) and the rest will be paid to you gradually in your regular monthly benefit payment according to IRS regulations.

## Change in Tax Treatment Resulting From a Direct Rollover

If you roll over a PLSO payment from KPERS, the funds adopt the federal tax characteristics of the plan that receives them. The tax treatment of later payments from the eligible employer plan or traditional IRA receiving your *direct rollover* might be different than if you received your benefit directly from KPERS.

KPERS lump-sum benefits, including earnings, generally keep their Kansas state tax-exempt status, even when rolled over into a qualified retirement account containing other retirement funds.

If you choose a PLSO when you retire, you will receive two 1099-R forms in January – one for your regular monthly benefits and one for your PLSO payment. If you roll over your PLSO, you’ll receive a 1099-R for each plan you send money to.

## 1099-R Tax Form

Every January 31, KPERS will mail you a 1099-R form with information for your federal tax returns. This form shows the benefits paid to you and the taxable amount. Information and IRS instructions are printed on the back of the form. The Retirement System will also send letters each year to any retirees affected by tax changes. These letters show your new deductions based on any new tax laws. If you have questions about your taxes, please contact a tax professional or the IRS.

PAYER'S name, street address, city, state and ZIP code KANSAS PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM 611 S KANSAS AVE SUITE 100 TOPEKA KS 66603 - 3803  W-004000		1 Gross distribution 16,141.12	<b>2016</b>	Distributions From Pensions, Annuities, Retirement or Profit-Sharing Plans, IRAs, Insurance Contracts, etc.
		2a Taxable amount 16,141.12		
		2b Taxable amount not determined <input type="checkbox"/>	Total distribution <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Copy 2</b> File this copy with your state, city or local income tax return, when required.
PAYER'S federal ID number 48-0944170	RECIPIENT'S ID number ***-**-2222	3 Capital gain (included in box 2a)	4 Federal income tax withheld 111.00	
RECIPIENT'S name, street address, city, state and ZIP code A. RETIREE 1234 N FIRST STREET ANYTOWN KS 33333		5 Employee contributions or insurance premiums	6 Net unrealized appreciation in employer's securities	
		7 Distribution code(s) 7	8 Other IRA/SEP/SIMPLE	
		9a Your percentage of total distribution	9b Total employee contributions	
Account number 333333-333333		RETIRED 04-06 IRS NET INVESTMENT 13,010.00 EXCLUDED TO 12/31/16 3,710.00		

Form 1099-R

- Gross Distribution**  
Total amount KPERS paid to you in 2016.
- Taxable Amount**  
Taxable portion of benefits you received in 2016.
- Federal Income Tax Withheld**  
Federal income tax withheld from taxable amount in box 2a.
- Employee Contributions**  
Nontaxable portion of benefits you received in 2016.
- Distribution Code**  
Type of benefit you received. See back of 1099-R.

### IRS Net Investment

Total amount of your nontaxable contributions. These contributions are reported in box 5 as they are recovered through your monthly benefits.

## Steps in the Retirement Process

1. Calculate a benefit estimate with KPERS' benefit calculator at [kpers.org](http://kpers.org) or on the KPERS member web portal.
2. Review the KPERS Retirement Options publication to consider your payment options.
3. Submit your Application for Retirement form (KPERS-15) at least 30 days before the day you want to retire. **You need to apply to receive your benefits. They do not begin automatically.**
4. Documents you will need to provide with your application:
  - Proof of birth to establish age
  - Proof of any name change
  - Birth document and any name change document for your joint annuitant, if you have oneSee Acceptable Proof of Birth and Name Change.

KPERS accepts photocopied documents of birth and name change as long as they are not altered. If you are unable to locate the necessary documents, please contact your employer or the KPERS office for alternatives. Our office will accept faxed documents. Death certificates and court documents must be certified. Please don't email any documents with your Social Security number.

5. The Retirement System will process your application. We will notify you if we need more information.
6. The Retirement System will mail a letter to your home address including information about your benefit amount.
7. Your monthly benefit payments will be directly deposited at your financial institution on the last working day of each month. You will receive your first benefit payment at the end of the month *after* your retirement date.

## Acceptable Proof of Birth and Name Change

### Proof of Birth

A photocopy of one of the following:

1. Birth certification
2. Baptismal certificate or statement as to the date of birth shown by a church record, certified by the record's custodian
3. Notification of registration of birth in a public registry of vital statistics
4. Certification or record of age by the U.S. Census Bureau
5. Hospital birth record, certified by the record's custodian
6. Foreign church or government record
7. Signed statement by the physician or midwife who was in attendance at birth, as to the date of birth shown on their records
8. Naturalization record
9. Immigration papers



If you are unable to provide proof of birth according to 1-9 above, submit a photocopy of two of the following documents:

10. Military record
11. Passport
12. School record, certified by the custodian of the record
13. Vaccination record, certified by the custodian of the record
14. Insurance policy application that shows the age or date of birth
15. Marriage records showing date of birth or age (application for marriage license or church record, certified by the custodian of the record or marriage certificate)
16. Other evidence such as signed statements from persons who have knowledge of the date of birth

### **Proof of Name Change**

A photocopy of one of the following:

1. Marriage or other court records showing birth name and present name (If a person has had more than one name change, records submitted must reflect all name changes.)
2. Name Change Affidavit (KPERS-40NC) or other affidavit from a parent listing all name changes
3. Request for Member Information Change form (KPERS-12) signed and submitted to KPERS by employer at the time of the name change will be acceptable for name changes occurring during employment
4. Federal Employment Eligibility Verification form (I-9)
5. Driver's license
6. Social Security card

If you are unable to provide proof of name change according to 1-3 above, submit a photocopy of two of the following documents:

7. Name Change Affidavit (KPERS-40NC) or other affidavit from two persons declaring that the persons have known the applicant by all names in question
8. Birth documents of natural child if document shows both the given name and the married name
9. Other documents showing both names in question, such as school records, medical records, insurance policy application, etc.

## **Receiving Your Monthly Retirement Benefit Payments**

Your retirement application will include a direct deposit form (KPERS-15B) for depositing your monthly benefit into your checking or savings account. You can only name one account at one financial institution to receive the payment. Your name must appear on the account. Direct deposits are generally made on the last working day of each month. Please keep in mind that there is always a chance, however rare, that something beyond our control may happen that could affect the timeliness of benefit payments. Other businesses and State agencies are also involved with the payment process. For this reason, the actual payment date may vary slightly.

You will receive a notice of any changes, but you will not receive a payment notice in the mail each month. Check with your financial institution to verify deposits. If at any time during retirement you need to change the account designated for benefit deposit, login to your online KPERS account. You can also download a direct deposit form at [kpers.org](http://kpers.org). The Retirement System will not deposit into a bank account that is a group account for money market, managed fund or brokerage accounts.

## Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLAs)

A cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) is an increase in monthly pension benefits to help keep pace with inflation. Retirees do not receive regular COLAs. For this reason, your personal savings become even more important to provide protection against inflation.

## Retiree Death Benefit

KPERS retirees have a \$4,000 death benefit. You can choose a person, your estate, a trust or a funeral establishment to receive this death benefit. Regular monthly retirement benefits are payable through the last day of the month your death occurs. If you choose a joint-survivor benefit option, your joint annuitant does not have this benefit.

The \$4,000 death benefit is:

- Payable with all retirement payment options.
- Not payable when a joint annuitant dies.
- Nontaxable for Kansas income tax.
- Taxable for federal income tax purposes.

## Your Beneficiary

It is important to keep your beneficiary designation up-to-date. Review your designation whenever you have a significant life event.

- Marriage
- Divorce
- Retirement
- A birth or adoption in your family
- A death in your family

### Who Can You Name as Beneficiary?

- A person
- A trust
- Your estate
- Any combination of these options

You cannot name a church or other charitable organization as a beneficiary.

If you choose more than one beneficiary, each will share your benefits equally. A beneficiary does not have to be the same person as your joint-annuitant, who receives a monthly benefit after you die if you chose a survivor benefit.

You can add or change beneficiaries at any time through your online account at [kpers.org](http://kpers.org) or by completing a Designation of Beneficiary – Retired form (KPERS-7/99R). You can download a form at [kpers.org](http://kpers.org) or call the InfoLine, 1-888-275-5737 or 785-296-6166, to receive one by mail. Only members can complete the form. Even conservators, guardians and those with power of attorney cannot select or change a Retirement System beneficiary.

**Each time you complete a beneficiary form or make a change online, it cancels all those you have previously completed.** Every time you complete the form, please be sure to fill in *both* the primary and contingent beneficiary sections if you intend to have both a primary and contingent beneficiary. If you complete only the contingent section and leave the primary blank, you will have no primary beneficiary, even if a past form names one.

## Designating a Funeral Establishment

You can directly designate a funeral establishment to receive the \$4,000 death benefit. If you name another beneficiary instead, the beneficiary can assign the benefit to a funeral establishment after your death. How a funeral establishment receives the benefit determines who is responsible for the taxes.

- If you directly designate a funeral establishment, the establishment receives \$4,000 and pays the taxes.
- If your beneficiary *assigns* the benefit to a funeral establishment, your beneficiary is responsible for the taxes. KPERS will send the beneficiary a 1099-R form the following January for his or her federal tax return.

If you designate a funeral establishment, **you also need to name a primary beneficiary to receive any of your remaining contributions and interest.** Only the \$4,000 death benefit can be paid to the funeral establishment.

## Beneficiary Definitions

- Primary:** The person(s) who you want to receive death benefits and returned contributions from KPERS after your death.
- Contingent:** The person(s) to be paid if there is no primary beneficiary living after your death.
- Joint Beneficiary:** When you name more than one person as a primary or contingent beneficiary, benefits are shared equally.
- Joint Annuitant:** Someone you choose to receive monthly survivor retirement benefits. Your joint annuitant cannot be changed once you retire. However, you can designate another person as beneficiary of your \$4,000 death benefit at any time.
- Estate:** Your assets and liabilities at death.
- Trust:** A trust is a legal document in which you name someone (a trustee) to receive any payments from KPERS upon your death and use them solely for the benefit of your intended beneficiary, whom you name in the trust document. To name a trust as your KPERS beneficiary, you write the name of your trust (for example, “the Jane Doe Trust”) in the box on the Designation of Beneficiary – Retired form (KPERS-7/99R). The trust document itself is filed with KPERS after your death. Seek legal counsel to create a trust.

## If You Don't Name a Beneficiary

If you do not have a living beneficiary when you die, the Retirement System must follow a line of descendants by Kansas law:

- Spouse
- Dependent children
- Dependent parents
- Non-dependent children
- Non-dependent parents
- Estate of the deceased member

A dependent is a parent or child who relies on you for at least half of his or her support.

## Divorce and Your KPERS Benefits

KPERS contributions that you have accumulated during marriage are considered marital assets. If you divorce before or after retiring, a former spouse may be able to receive part of your benefit or contributions. A former spouse can receive payment from the Retirement System under a Qualified Domestic Relations Order (QDRO) when you withdraw, retire or die. Please seek legal counsel if this situation applies to you.

## Life Insurance

### As an Active Member

As an active member, you are currently covered by life insurance equal to 150% of your annual salary at no cost to you. You can purchase additional KPERS group life insurance if your employer offers it. Contact your employer for information.

### As a Retiree

Life insurance through your employer ends when you retire. If you want to continue coverage, you have two options: keep your term coverage and pay an increased premium or convert your coverage to a whole life plan of insurance. A whole life plan of insurance is considerably more expensive, but it does build cash value. With either option, you can continue up to the full amount of your current insurance coverage without proof of good health, but you cannot add to your coverage.

Your employer has the life insurance conversion and portability forms, or you can download them at [kpers.org](http://kpers.org). You have 60 days from your last day of employment to submit a form. Each form has coverage details and premium information. After you complete your portion of the form, your employer completes the employer portion. Send the completed form directly to the insurance company for processing within 60 days. The insurance company will contact you directly with any questions.

## Health Insurance

KPERS does not provide health care coverage for retirees. However, according to Kansas law, members who have been employed with their employer for ten years or more can remain in their current health plan by paying the entire premium themselves. KPERS does not administer this statute. For more information on continuing your health care coverage, please contact your employer.

## Working After You Retire

Many retirees decide to return to work. But, returning to work after retirement may affect your benefits if you don't follow the rules. Generally, if you work for a non-Retirement System employer, there are no restrictions. But if you choose to work for a KPERS-affiliated employer or a third-party entity that contracts with a KPERS employer, some rules apply to you.

### No Prearrangements

Before retirement and during your waiting period, you can't have a prearranged agreement with a KPERS employer to return to work. Not allowing prearrangements is very important to KPERS. It helps keep our eligible plan status with the IRS.

Kansas law considers "prearrangement" as a situation where the employer and employee reasonably anticipate employment after retirement. Interviews, applications, and even written and verbal communication about further employment are prearrangements.

### Waiting Period

You'll have a waiting period before you can go back to work for any KPERS employer. During this time, you also cannot make any prearrangements to return to work with any KPERS employer. The length of your waiting period depends on your age.

- 60 days if you retire at age 62 or later
- 180 days if you retire before age 62

To calculate the waiting period, count the day after your retirement date as day one.

*For example:* If your retirement date is July 1, July 2 is day one and you cannot begin employment with any Retirement System employer until September 1. If your waiting period is 180 days, the first day you could begin employment would be December 30.

If you are found to have a prearrangement or have violated the waiting period agreement, your retirement benefit will be suspended. This would start the month you return to work and end 6 months after you quit working.

### Earnings Limit

The Legislature removed the \$25,000 earnings limit beginning January 1, 2018.

### Employer Contributions and Exemptions

If you return to work in a KPERS-covered position, that employer is required to make contributions to the Retirement System for the position you fill. Employers do not have to make contributions for non-covered positions, such as seasonal or temporary positions.

Certain positions are exempt from employer contributions.

- Licensed state nurses
- Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center instructors
- State and local elected officials
- Legislative staff
- Substitute teachers without a contract





Please note: Certain generalizations may have been made in this publication.  
Kansas law and the rules adopted by the Retirement System Board of Trustees will control specific situations.

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