



Medina County Policy Manual



Policy: Public Employee Retirement System - PERS	Section: Benefits	Number: 5.035
Issued: 09/17/07	Reviewed/Revised:	Page #: 1 of 3

ORC 145

The following contains excerpts taken directly from the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) Membership Handbook known to exist at the time of this policy. This policy merely serves as an overview for the general understanding of Ohio's retirement system offered to eligible employees. Readers are well advised to consult PERS's printed publications, or go online at www.opers.org, for up-to-date and comprehensive information.

A. Public Employees Retirement System

1. All employees paid by the County are required to enroll in Ohio's Public Employees Retirement System within 180 days from their hire date and must select one of the Ohio PERS retirement plans: the Traditional Pension Plan, the Member-Directed Plan, and the Combined Plan.
2. Employees are required to make contributions through payroll deduction to the retirement plan they select. The County Commissioners are also required to make contributions based on the percentage of the employee's earnable salary.
3. Contribution rates and plan information is available through PERS brochures of online at www.opers.org.

B. Retirement Eligibility

1. Upon attaining age and service retirement eligibility in the retirement plan in which the employee is participating, they are eligible to apply for and receive retirement benefits. Termination of service is required prior to receiving an age and service retirement benefit.

Policy: Public Employee Retirement System - PERS		Section: Benefits	Number: 5.035
Issued: 09/17/07	Reviewed/Revised:		Page #: 2 of 3

2. Under the Traditional Pension or Combined Plan, upon reaching age 60, and having either five years of total service or at least 60 calendar months of contributing service in Ohio PERS, the employee is eligible to retire and receive an Ohio PERS retirement benefit. The employee may retire with a reduced benefit as early as age 55 if they have at least 25 years of total service. With at least 30 years of total service, there is no age requirement, nor benefit reduction because of age.

3. Under the Member-Directed Plan Members participating in the Member-Directed Plan are eligible to retire after they reach age 55.

C. Contributing service

1. Employees earn contributing service credit when their contributions are remitted to Ohio PERS by the County and posted to their accounts.

2. Employees cannot receive more than one year of service credit for any calendar year, even if they are employed concurrently in more than one public job. Neither can they receive a full year of service credit if their length of employment or earnings per month indicate less than full-time service.

D. Purchased service credit

1. Employees may be eligible to purchase service credit or contributing months through Ohio PERS in one or more direct payments or through payroll deduction, subject to certain limitations. This includes the purchase of credit for positions held out-of-state, with the federal government, or with an Ohio municipal retirement system.

2. Consult PERS printed publications, or go online at www.opers.org, for detailed information concerning the purchasing of service credit.

E. Leaving Public Employment in Ohio

1. Upon leaving all public employment in Ohio, the employee may apply for and receive a refund. The refund amount differs for each of the retirement plans. Taking a refund from the plan in which the employee participates cancels their membership in Ohio PERS.

Policy: Public Employee Retirement System - PERS	Section: Benefits	Number: 5.035
Issued: 09/17/07	Reviewed/Revised:	Page #: 3 of 3

2. Before a refund is made, the law requires that three months must elapse from the date the employee terminated public employment as certified by the County. Payment will be sent by mail to the address shown on the refund application form. The employee is not required to take a refund of their contributions upon termination of employment.