

Summary of Plan Provisions

1. Effective Date: July 1, 1943.
2. Plan Year: Twelve-month period ending June 30th.
3. Administration: The System is administered by a Board of Trustees, which is responsible for administration of the System and investment of System assets. Three members serve ex officio, while a total of ten others are appointed by the Governor (six), the President of the Senate (two), and the Speaker of the House (two), according to various guidelines.
4. Type of Plan: The System is a qualified governmental defined benefit retirement plan. For GASB purposes, it is a cost-sharing multiple-employer PERS.
5. Eligibility: All employees of any public school in Oklahoma, including public colleges and universities, are eligible to participate in the System. Classified personnel (teachers, supervisors, principals, registered school nurses, administrators, etc.) are required to participate, beginning at their date of employment. Non-classified employees (all other employees, such as drivers, secretaries, janitors, cooks, etc.) may, but are not required to, participate. Certain other State employees, such as employees of the System itself, participate in the System. Beginning July 1, 2004, new employees hired by the universities (Oklahoma University, the Health Sciences Center, and Oklahoma State University) may elect to join an alternate plan provided by the universities in lieu of joining OTRS. The election to join the alternate plan is irrevocable.
6. Maximum Pay: At one time, contributions under this system were based on pay up to a maximum dollar amount. Members could choose between a \$40,000 maximum and a \$25,000 maximum. The member's Final Average Compensation was limited by this same maximum, so the member's election affected his/her benefits, as well as contributions.

This maximum no longer applies in determining the required member and employer contributions for most members. It does still have an impact, however. As noted below, benefits based on service earned before July 1, 1995 are limited by the \$40,000 or \$25,000 maximum, whichever was elected.

In addition, members employed by one of the comprehensive universities who entered the system before July 1, 1995 still have their current member and employer contributions limited according to the schedule on the following page.

	<u>Elected \$40,000 Maximum</u>	<u>Elected \$25,000 Maximum</u>
1995/1996	\$44,000	\$27,500
1996/1997	49,000	32,500
1997/1998	54,000	37,500
1998/1999	59,000	42,500
1999/2000	59,000	42,500
2000/2001	64,000	47,500
2001/2002	69,000	52,500
2002/2003	74,000	57,500
2003/2004	79,000	62,500
2004/2005	84,000	67,500
2005/2006	89,000	72,500
2006/2007	94,000	77,500
Thereafter	No limit	No limit

Benefits for some members in higher education are likewise limited for the period before July 1, 2007.

7. Member Contributions: Generally, active members contribute 7% of all compensation to the System. As noted in the preceding item, however, contributions for some members in higher education are limited by a pay maximum. A school district may pay all or part of the contribution for its employees.
8. Employer Contributions: Employers are required to contribute a fixed percentage of pay on behalf of active members. The employer contribution rate is applied to all pay, except as already noted in the case of certain higher education employees. Beginning July 1, 2002, the local employer contribution rate is 7.05%.

In addition, the state will contribute a percentage of revenues from sales taxes, use taxes, corporate income taxes and individual income taxes. That percentage is 4.00% for FY 2006 and is scheduled to increase to 5.00% by FY 2008, as shown below.

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Contribution Percentage</u>
FY 2003	3.54%
FY 2004	3.54%
FY 2005	3.75%
FY 2006	4.00%
FY 2007	4.50%
FY 2008	5.00%

Beginning in FY 2006, the State also contributes 5.0 % of lottery proceeds.

If a member's salary is paid from federal funds or certain grant money, an additional contribution (the federal matching contribution) is required. The federal contribution rate is set by the Board of Trustees annually, and is intended to approximate the state's contribution, expressed as a percentage of non federal/grant salaries.

9. Service: Employees receive credit for a year of service if they are contributing members for at least six months within one school year. Credit may also be granted for service prior to the System's effective date, and non-classified employees can purchase credit for their prior service once they have joined the System. Credit is also available for some out-of-state and military service under certain circumstances. Finally, members receive a year of service credit if they have accumulated 120 days of unused sick leave at termination.
10. Final Average Compensation (FAC): The average of the member's compensation for the three or five years on which the highest contributions are paid. For persons becoming members before July 1, 1992, the averaging period is three years. For other members, the averaging period is five years. For service prior to July 1, 1995, the FAC is limited to \$40,000 or \$25,000, depending on the member's election as discussed in Item 6 above.
11. Normal Retirement
 - a. Eligibility: A member is eligible to retire and receive a Normal Retirement benefit if (i) the member is at least age 62 and has credit for 5 or more years of service, or (ii) the sum of the member's age and service is at least 80 (Rule of 80). (For members joining after June 30, 1992, a "Rule of 90" is used instead of the "Rule of 80".)
 - b. Monthly Benefit: 2% of FAC (limited to \$40,000 or \$25,000, as appropriate) times years of service prior to July 1, 1995, plus 2% of FAC (unlimited) times years of service after June 30, 1995. Special provisions apply to higher education members for service during the period July 1, 1995 through June 30, 2007 if their pay in any year in this period exceeded the applicable maximum. Monthly benefits are equal to one-twelfth of the calculated amount.
 - c. Payment Form: Benefits are paid as a monthly life annuity, with a guarantee that if the payments made do not exceed the member's accumulated contributions, determined as of the date of retirement, the balance will be paid in a lump-sum to the member's beneficiary. Optional forms of payment are available; see below.
12. Early Retirement

- a. Eligibility: A member may retire early after reaching age 55 with credit for five years of service, or at any age after 30 years of service.
- b. Monthly Benefit: The normal retirement benefit (based on current years of service) multiplied by the early retirement factor below.
- c. Early Retirement Factor:

<u>Retirement</u>	<u>Factor</u>
62 or later	1.0000
61	.9333
60	.8666
59	.8000
58	.7523
57	.7038
56	.6595
55	.6189
54	.5817
53	.5474
52	.5159
51	.4868
50	.4598
49	.4349
48	.4117
47	.3902

- d. Payment Form: Same as for Normal Retirement above.

13. Disability Retirement

- a. Eligibility: A member is eligible provided (i) he/she has credit for at least 10 years of service, and (ii) the disability is approved by the Medical Board, appointed by the Board of Trustees.
- b. Monthly Benefit: Same as for Normal Retirement above (based on current service).
- c. Payment Form: The disability benefit commences immediately upon the member's retirement. Benefits are reduced or cease entirely upon recovery or reemployment prior to age 60. Disability benefits are payable as a monthly life annuity, with a guarantee that if the payments made do not exceed the sum of the member's accumulated contributions as of the date of retirement, the balance will be paid in a lump-sum to the member's beneficiary. A married, disabled member may elect a reduced benefit under the Joint & 100% Survivor option (with pop

up) form of payments (Option 2 described in item 17 below). The reduction factor is determined using a disabled-life mortality table for the retiree.

14. Vested Termination Benefit

- a. Eligibility: A member with at least 5 years of service who does not withdraw his/her contributions from the fund is eligible for a vested termination benefit.
- b. Monthly Benefit: Same as for Normal Retirement above (based on current service). If benefits commence prior to age 62, they may be reduced as for Early Retirement above.
- c. Payment Form: Benefits commence at age 62, or optionally as early as age 55. The form of payment is the same as for Normal Retirement above.

15. Withdrawal (Refund) Benefit

- a. Eligibility: All members leaving covered employment with less than 5 years of service for a reason other than the member's death. Optionally, members eligible for other benefits may withdraw their contributions in lieu of the regular benefits due.
- b. Benefit: The member who withdraws receives a lump-sum payment of his/her employee contributions, plus a portion of the interest credited by the System on these contributions. Interest is credited at an annual rate of 8%. The portion of the interest paid on termination depends on the member's years of service as follows:

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Percent of Interest Refunded</u>
0-15	50%
16-21	60%
22-25	75%
26 or more	90%

16. Death in Service

- a. Eligibility: Death must have occurred while an active member

- b. Benefit: Upon the death of an active member, a refund of the member's contributions and 100% of the interest credited is paid. In addition, a lump sum of \$18,000 will be paid. If the member is eligible for retirement (early or normal) at the time of death, and the member is married, the spouse may elect to receive a monthly life annuity equal to the retirement benefit for which the member was eligible, reduced as though the member had elected to receive benefits under Option 2 (see below). This annuity is paid in lieu of both (i) the \$18,000 lump-sum death benefit and (ii) the refund of contributions.
17. Optional Forms of Payment: There are optional forms of payment available on an actuarially equivalent basis, as follows:
- a. Option 1 - A life annuity with a guaranteed refund of the member's contributions and interest, less a monthly adjustment for benefits paid.
- b. Option 2 - A joint life annuity payable while both the member and the joint annuitant are alive; and if the member dies before the joint annuitant, continuing without change to the joint annuitant; or if the joint annuitant dies before the member, "popping-up" to the original life annuity amount and continuing for the life of the member.
- c. Option 3 - A joint life annuity payable while both the member and the joint annuitant are alive; and if the member dies before the joint annuitant, continuing at 50% of this amount for the joint annuitant's lifetime; or if the joint annuitant dies before the member, "popping-up" to the original life annuity amount and continuing for the life of the member.
- d. Option 4 - A life annuity with a guarantee that if the member dies before 120 payments (10 years) have been made; the payments will be continued to the member's beneficiary for the balance of the ten-year period.
- e. Option 5 - A partial lump-sum option (PLSO) would be allowed for those members with at least 30 years of service upon retirement. The amount of the PLSO would be equal to 12, 24, or 36 times the member's monthly retirement benefit, determined before applying any reduction for the PLSO or any other optional form of payment. A member who elects to receive a PLSO will have his/her monthly retirement benefit reduced on an actuarial basis to compensate for the fact that a PLSO is provided. A member who elects a PLSO may elect any of the other optional forms of payment as well, taking a further reduction in the annuity amount.

Actuarial equivalence is based on tables adopted by the Board of Trustees.

18. Special Retirees: This is a group of retirees who have been granted a special \$150 per month benefit although they did not fulfill the requirements for service retirement. With cost of living increases, the special retirees now average \$187 per month.
19. Supplemental Medical Insurance
 - a. Eligibility: All retired members (including service retirees and disabled retirees but excluding the special retirees and spouses or beneficiaries) who have at least 10 years of service credit are eligible for a supplemental medical insurance payment.
 - b. Monthly Benefit: Eligible members receive the smaller of (i) a Medicare supplement benefit, if eligible, or (ii) an amount between \$100 and \$105 per month, depending on service and Final Average Compensation.
 - c. Payment Form: Benefits are payable as a life annuity on behalf of the retired member to (i) the Oklahoma Employees' Group Insurance plan, if the member has health coverage under this plan, or (ii) to the member's former employer, if the member retains health coverage under a plan maintained by the former employer.
20. Post-retirement Death Benefit
 - a. Eligibility: All retired members (including service retirees and disabled retirees but excluding the special retirees and spouses or beneficiaries) are eligible for a post-retirement death benefit.
 - b. Benefit: A lump-sum payment of \$5,000.
21. Cost-of-living Increase: From time to time, the System has been amended to grant certain post-retirement benefit increases. However, the System has no automatic cost-of-living increase features.