# **Demystifying CalSTRS**

Welcome and please sign in

# CalSTRS is with you throughout your career and retirement.

## **Discussion Topics**

- CalSTRS hybrid
- The basics
- Your contributions
- Your benefits
- Next steps

#### **Hybrid Retirement System**



- Defined Benefit Program
- Defined Benefit Supplement Program
- CalSTRS Pension2®

#### **Partners in Your Retirement**

#### **CalSTRS**

- Defined benefit
- Defined Benefit Supplement
- Survivor benefits
- Disability benefits
- One-time death benefit
- CalSTRS Pension2®
- 403bCompare.com

#### **Employer**

- Determine salary & pay rate
- Health and employee benefits
- Retirement incentives
- Report contract and earnings to CalSTRS
- Resolve service credit issues
- Sick leave balance
- Reduced Workload Program

**Submit Retirement Application** 

Resign/retire from district



#### **Contributions**

- Member contributions
  - > 8.15 percent for fiscal year 2014-2015
  - Increasing to 10.25 percent for 2% at 60 members and 9.205 percent for 2% at 62 members by 2016-17
- Employer contributions
  - > 8.88 percent for fiscal year 2014-2015
  - Increasing to 19.1% by 2020-21
- The state of California also contributes
  - ➤ Increasing to 6.328% by 2016-17, plus 2.5% for purchasing power protection

#### **Defined Benefit Power**

- Risk free
- Guaranteed for life
- Based on a formula not your contributions

#### **Defined Benefit Plans**

Public and corporate pensions

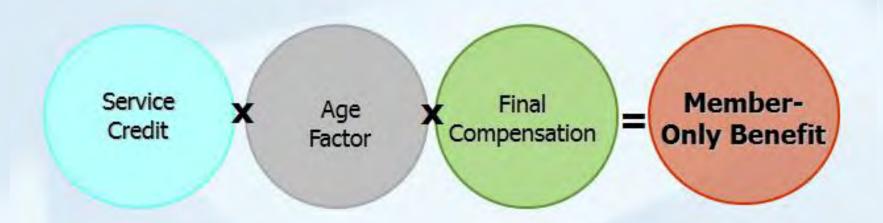
#### **Defined Contribution Plans**

403(b), 457, 401(K)

Once vested, provides a secure, stable retirement income for life regardless of your contributions.

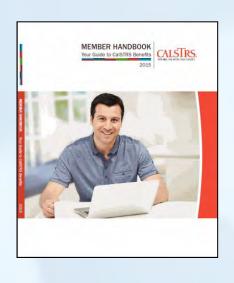
The amount contributed is fixed, but the benefit is not. Funds are finite.

#### **Defined Benefit Formula**



- CalSTRS 2% at 60: hired on or before Dec 31, 2012
- CalSTRS 2% at 62: hired on or after Jan 1, 2013

#### **Your Benefits - Retirement**



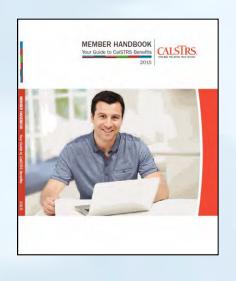
- Must be vested to qualify
- May retire at 55, if vested
- May retire at 50, if you have 30 years of service credit\*

\* Applies to CalSTRS 2% at 60 members only



#### **Service Credit**

#### The number of full and partial years you paid into CalSTRS



- Maximum per school year is 1.000
- Total service credit in your
   Retirement Progress Report
- Unused sick leave converts to service credit
- Purchase additional service credit

#### **Purchasing Service Credit**

# Types of service credit you may be able to purchase:



- Redeposit
- Permissive

#### **Purchasing Service Credit – Redeposit**

Redepositing allows you to restore the service credit represented by refunded contributions



- Refunded contributions
- Dissolution of marriage

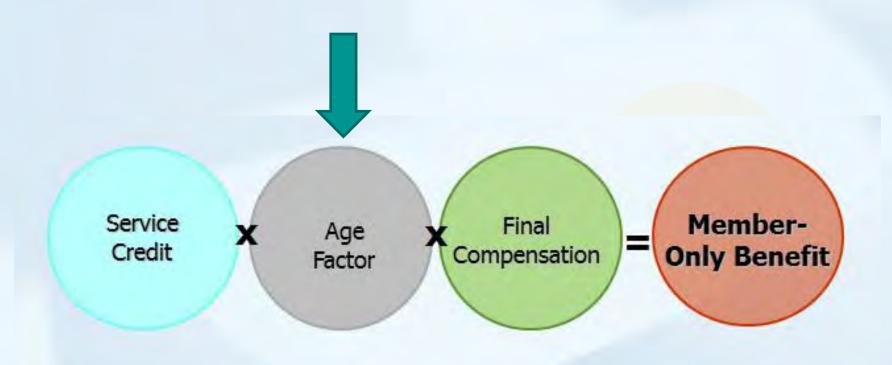
#### **Purchasing Service Credit – Permissive**



- Non-member service
- Out-of-state service
- Sabbatical
- Maternity/paternity leave
- Family care and medical leave

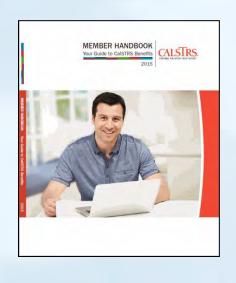


#### **Defined Benefit Formula**



#### **Age Factor**

# A percentage determined by your age at retirement



- Highest age factor possible is 2.4 percent
  - CalSTRS 2% at 60
  - CalSTRS 2% at 62
- Career Factor increase of 0.2 percent with
   30 or more years of service credit\*

\*For CalSTRS 2% at 60 members only

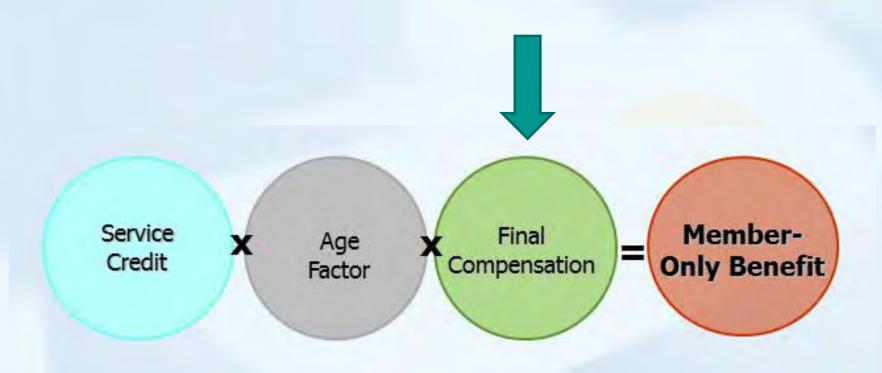
#### **Career Factor\***

# 30 years of credited service increases age factor by 0.2 percent to a maximum of 2.4 percent

Age	Fewer than 30 years	30 years or more
55½	1.460	1.660
581/2	1.820	2.020
61½+	2.200	2.400

\*For CalSTRS 2% at 60 members only

#### **Defined Benefit Formula**

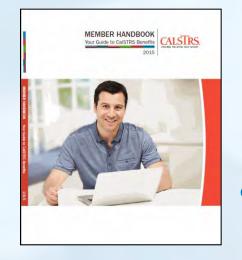


# **Final Compensation**





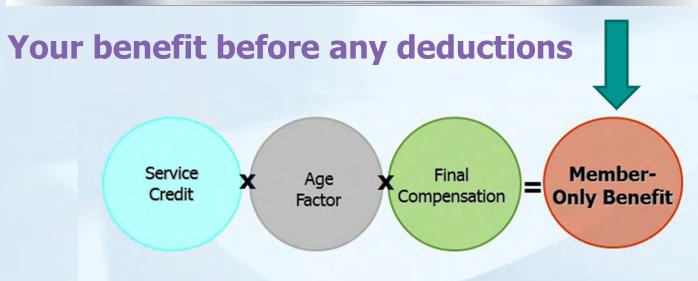




#### CalSTRS 2% at 62

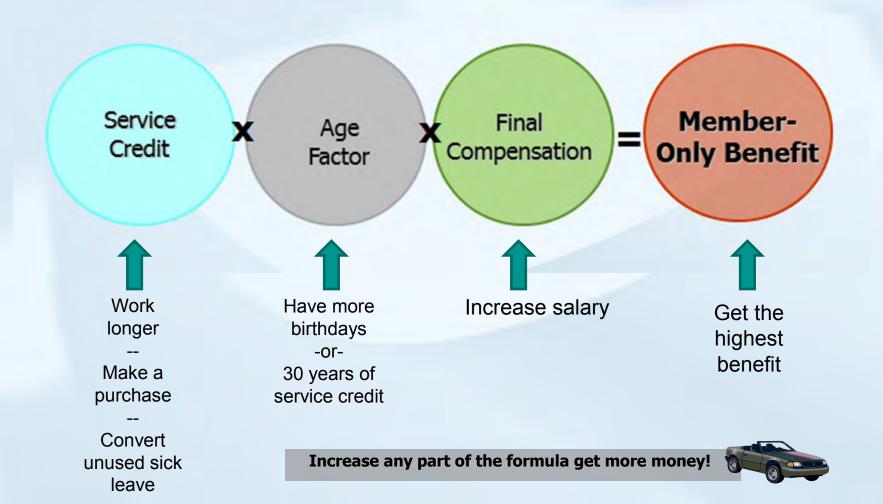
➤ Any amount of service credit — **36 consecutive months** 

#### **Member-Only Benefit**



- >Highest possible monthly benefit
- >Monthly benefit for your lifetime only
- ➤ Annual 2% non-compounded increases

#### **Increase Your Retirement Benefit**



Remember: Benefit enhancements are only available to CalSTRS 2% at 60 members









#### **Service Credit – Limitations**

# Types of service credit that do not qualify for benefit enhancements:

#### **Earned**

- Unused sick leave, in excess of .200 service credit
  - **Purchased**
- Nonqualified service credit ("air time")

#### **Other**

- Unpurchased Local Service credit
- Retirement Incentive credit

#### Jen

- Jen is 26 and a new full-time educator with two years of service credit.
- She is engaged; her fiancée,
   Kyle, is 27.
- She's contributing 8.15% of her salary to CalSTRS but wonders what she gets for her money.



#### Jen at 55 - Retirement Formula



Jen is eligible to use her highest one year of Final Compensation as well as the Career Factor.

At age 55, Jen's Member-Only Benefit will be approximately 50% of her working salary

#### Jen at 60 - Retirement Formula



At age 60, Jen's Member-Only Benefit will be approximately 79% of her working salary.

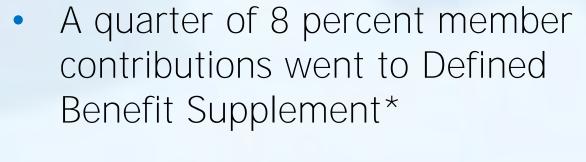
By working five more years, Jen's benefit increases by **\$1,603** a month.

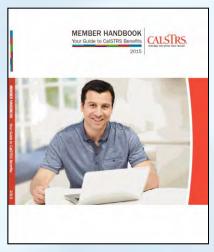
#### **Defined Benefit Supplement Program**



- Provides supplemental income to regular Defined Benefit pension
- Based on amount of money in account and your age at retirement
- Income guaranteed for life

# **Building Your Defined Benefit Supplement Account**

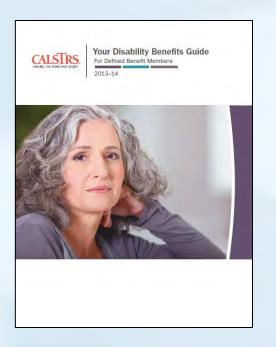




- On earnings in excess of 1.000 year of service credit
  - > 8 percent member contributions
  - > 8 percent employer contributions
- Compounded interest (3.55% in 2014–2015)

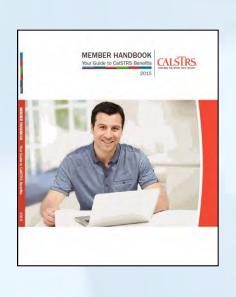
\*Ended on December 31, 2010

#### **Your Benefits – Disability Program**



- Must be vested
  - > 5 years or 1 year if unlawful act
- Disability permanent or expected to last at least 12 consecutive months
- Application and evaluation process
- Up to 5 months for a decision
- Additional benefits for eligible dependents

#### **Your Benefits – Survivor Benefits**



- Who is a "survivor?"
  - ➤ Coverage A versus Coverage B
- Choices based on survivor's eligibility
  - > Refund of your account
  - > Monthly benefit for life
- One-time death benefit\*
  - $\triangleright$  Active: A = \$6,163, B = \$24,652
  - > Retired: A & B = 6,163

\*Review your beneficiary every 5 years

#### What if Jen dies?

Jen's fiancée Kyle is her designated beneficiary and as such he would be able to receive:

- The contributions and interest from Jen's account and
- Jen's one-time death benefit of \$24,652.

#### What if Jen dies after she's married?

Jen's husband is her designated beneficiary and is now eligible to receive:

- A lifetime monthly benefit or
- The contributions and interest from Jen's account and
- Jen's one-time death benefit of \$24,652.



# What happens if I leave teaching?

#### **Options for your CalSTRS account**

- Leave the contributions in CalSTRS
- Rollover
- Cash refund

#### **Leave It and Let It Grow**

- At age 55, with five or more years of service credit, you can receive a monthly CalSTRS retirement benefit.
- If you die after retirement, your beneficiary is eligible for a one-time death benefit.
- Your account will continue to accrue compounded interest, which your beneficiaries will receive upon your death.

#### **Refund – Know the Consequences**

- You forfeit all rights to CalSTRS benefits.
- Cash refunds may see up to a 34.5 percent tax withholding.
- If you return to teaching, purchasing refunded service credit is costly.
- You must also refund your Defined Benefit Supplement account and you may not redeposit those funds.

#### **Effect of Jen's Refund**

After six years of teaching, Jen terminates her employment and decides to refund her contributions and interest.

Jen receives:	Jen forfeits:
Defined Benefit \$19,500	
+ Defined Benefit Supplement \$2,900	☐ Her CalSTRS benefits
<ul> <li>Taxes and penalties</li> </ul>	☐ Her original membership date
<ul><li>Income Tax Withholdings</li></ul>	Employer and State contributions
Total refund of \$14,672	

#### Jen Leaves It and Lets It Grow



Even if she doesn't teach again and decides to receive her retirement at age 63, Jen will receive a benefit of \$480 per month for the rest of her life.

(\$5,760 per year)

### **Next Steps**

- Sources of retirement income
- Wealth building tools
- Financial planning resources
- Be your own advocate

#### **Sources of Retirement Income**

Financial planners recommend a goal of 80 to 90%

of your preretirement income

CalSTRS
Defined Benefit
pension
replaces about
half of an
average
member's
salary

Will you need
other income?

Have you developed a financial plan that includes all sources of retirement income?

### **Advantages of Early Investing**



Investment yields at age 60, if you invest \$300/month over 10 years at 6% annual return.

Begin at Age 50

Begin at Age 40

Begin at Age 30

### **Wealth Building Tools**

- Tax deferred accounts
  - > 403(b)
  - > 457 plan
- Individual Retirement Account (IRA)
- Learn about other investment savings
- Roth IRA, Roth 403(b), Roth 457

#### **CalSTRS Pension2**



- Tax-deferred retirement savings
- Not-for-profit
- Objective advice and services at no additional cost
- Pension2 Easy Choice Portfolios
- 888-394-2060
- Pension2.com

### **Financial Planning Resources**

- CalSTRS.com
- 403bCompare.com
- federalreserveeducation.org
- mymoney.gov
- Books on financial planning topics
  - http://teachandretirerich.com/calstrs
- Find a financial planner <u>fpanet.org/public</u>

#### **Be Your Own Advocate**

- Create a myCalSTRS account
- Review your Retirement Progress Reports every year
- Make sure your one-time death benefit form is current

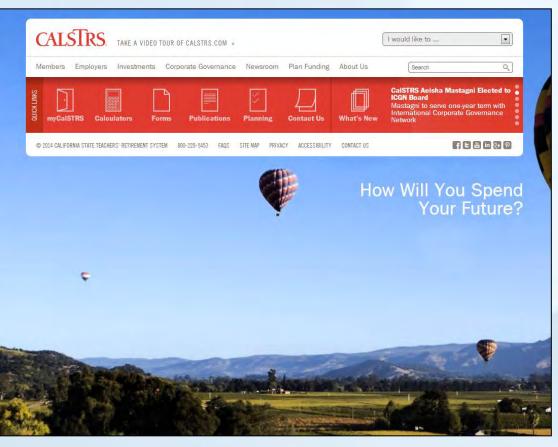




#### **Your CalSTRS Resources**

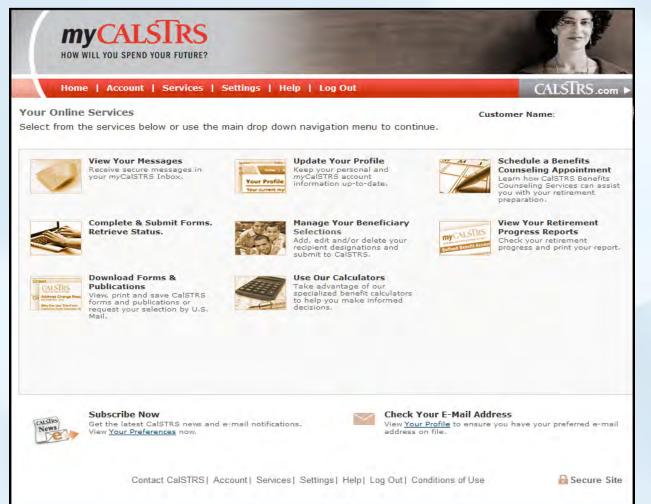


#### CalSTRS.com



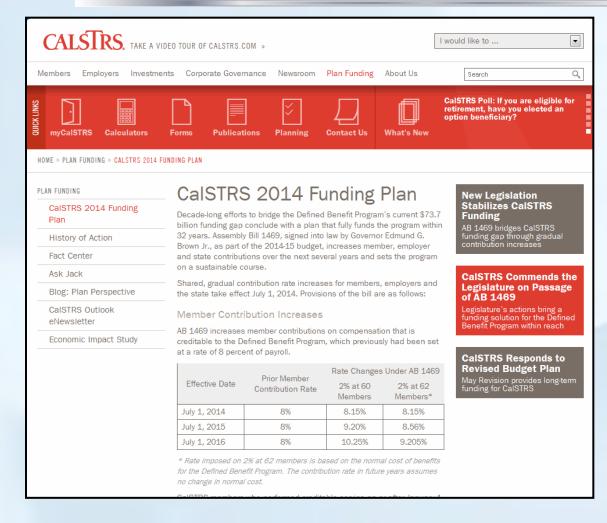
- Member information
- Estimate calculators
- Forms and publications
- Planning resources

### my CalSTRS



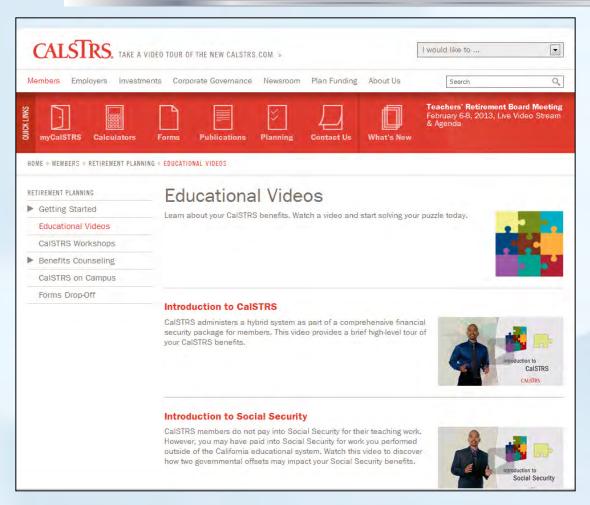
- Secure messaging
- Annual statements
- Address change
- Beneficiary designation

### **Plan Funding**



- New funding plan
- Funding outlook
- Know your benefits
- Ask Jack
- E-newsletters
- Join the conversation

#### **Educational Videos**



- Understanding the Formula
- The Gap
- Refund Consider the Consequences
- Defined BenefitSupplement
- Disability benefits
- Survivor benefits
- Social Security
- Pension2



### **Benefits Counseling**



- Interactive sessions
- Local offices
- Over the phone

# **Thank You for Attending**

**Welcome to CalSTRS** 

Pop. 868,000

**CalSTRS Members** 

