

Retirement Program Choices for Faculty

Enrollment Information:

Alternative Retirement Plan

ARP

*State Teachers Retirement
System of Ohio*

STRS

Enrollment Deadline: 120 Days

Choosing Your Retirement Program

Retirement program choices

Ohio public institutions do not participate in the federal Social Security system, other than contributions to Medicare. In recognition of the diverse retirement needs of employees, The Ohio State University offers two retirement programs from which to choose: the **Alternative Retirement Plan (ARP)** or the **State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS)**. The two programs differ in how your retirement benefits are determined. It is important that you understand exactly how each program works so that you can pick the one that best fits your retirement savings objectives.

This brochure outlines the differences between the program and addresses issues that will likely affect most people. You should carefully consider your own situation before making your election. You may also want to seek the advice of a retirement planning professional who is familiar with the plan options.

In addition to a monthly retirement income, you may want to consider your need for disability, survivor, and retiree health care benefits. Read on for more information regarding these benefits.

During the enrollment period, until your election is processed your retirement funds are invested in the STRS Defined Benefit Plan. If you enroll in the ARP, your contributions and the university's contributions from your ARP eligibility date will then be transferred to your ARP provider.

Your selection between the ARP and STRS is final and irrevocable while you are employed at Ohio State or if you are re-employed at Ohio State within 365 days of your termination date.

Enrollment period: 120 days

You must complete the *Retirement Program Election Form* and make an enrollment choice between the ARP and STRS retirement programs *within 120 days* of your eligible appointment date. If you do not make an election within this period, you will default to STRS.

If you elect STRS within the 120-day election period, you have an additional period to select between the STRS Defined Contribution, Defined Benefit, or Combined Plan options. (**Note:** You have a total of 180 days from your eligible appointment date to select among the three STRS plan options.)

Your election is **final and irrevocable** at the time you return your election form to the Office of Human Resources.

For more information

For additional information, refer to the *Retirement Program Choices Packet* or hr.osu.edu/benefits/retirementbenefits to obtain:

- Retirement Choices Forum Schedule
- Comparison Chart of Retirement Plan Options for Faculty
- Retirement Provider Contact List

Or contact:
Office of Human Resources
Benefits Consultants
(614) 292-1050
1-800-678-6010
benefits@hr.osu.edu
hr.osu.edu

Frequently Asked Questions

Q If I become dissatisfied with the retirement program I choose, can I switch to the other program while I am employed at Ohio State?

A Enrollment in either the ARP or STRS is a one-time **irrevocable** decision while you are employed at Ohio State, or if you are reemployed at Ohio State within 365 days of your termination date. State guidelines do not permit you to switch to the other program after the Office of Human Resources receives your Retirement Program Election Form.

If you elect STRS, you will have the opportunity at specific times during your public service to change your plan option within STRS. However, there may be financial implications involved with making a plan change. Contact STRS to determine whether or not you are eligible to change plans and any impact that may be associated with doing so.

If you elect ARP, you have the option each year to change ARP providers (see the fourth question on this page for details).

Q How do tax laws affect contributions and benefits?

A Tax consequences are very similar under both programs. Contributions are made on a pre-tax basis. This means that contributions are deducted from your pay before federal and state taxes are calculated. Because your income tax is calculated on a reduced amount of income, you pay less current tax. The investment returns on your account are also tax-deferred. Because your retirement contributions are not taxed at the time of payroll deduction, you will be taxed on the money when you receive it either as retirement income or as a lump-sum refund.

Q What do I need to consider when making my investment choices if I participate in a defined contribution plan such as the ARP?

A There are many things you should consider before investing your money in a defined contribution plan, including:

- the type of investor you are,
- the type of funds in which you want to invest, and
- your retirement time horizon.

Only you can decide which investment choices may best help you achieve your financial goals. Speak with a financial planner or contact the ARP provider you select to discuss each of these considerations.

Q If I elect the ARP, can I enroll with more than one provider at the same time?

A No. You can enroll with only one ARP provider at a time. You can change to another ARP provider by filling out a change form on an annual basis by December 15, with an effective date on your first pay in January. The form is available online or from the Office of Human Resources Customer Service Center.

Q If I change my ARP provider at the beginning of the calendar year, may I direct only my future contributions to the new ARP provider without transferring the funds held by my current provider?

A Yes. If you select a new ARP provider, you can leave your existing ARP account with your prior provider, or you may choose to transfer your entire ARP account balance or any portion of the account to the new ARP provider. **Note:** Applicable penalties may apply. Check with your ARP provider.

Q If I elect the ARP, may I direct future contributions to one of the other ARP providers without transferring funds held by the current provider?

A No. If you select a new ARP provider, you must transfer the entire balance to the new ARP provider. **Note:** Applicable penalties will apply.

Q If I change my ARP provider at the beginning of the calendar year, may I direct only my future contributions to the new ARP provider without transferring the funds held by my current provider?

A Yes. If you select a new ARP provider, you can leave your existing ARP account with your prior provider, or you may choose to transfer your entire ARP account balance or any portion of the account to the new ARP provider. **Note:** Applicable penalties may apply. Check with your ARP provider.

Q Will I be eligible for retirement health care benefits regardless of which program I elect?

A

- There are no retiree health care benefits associated with the ARP.
- If you participate in the STRS Defined Benefit Plan or Combined Plan, you may be eligible for retiree health care benefits if you meet the eligibility requirements established by the plan options.

Q How do the retirement programs discussed in this booklet differ from the university's Supplemental Retirement Accounts (SRA)?

A Unlike the mandatory retirement programs discussed in this booklet, the SRA is voluntary. SRAs offer you a way to save additional pre-tax funds toward your retirement through either a tax-deferred annuity plan (IRC Section 403b plans) or a deferred compensation plan (IRC Section 457 plans). More information about SRAs is available online at hr.osu.edu/benefits/rb_sra, including a listing of SRA providers.

Q Will my choice of retirement programs affect my participation in the Supplemental Retirement Accounts?

A No. Regardless of the retirement program you elect, you can participate in an Ohio State SRA. However, there are federal limits to establish the amount you can save each year through an SRA. For more information, contact an SRA provider.

Choosing the Right Program Can Make All the Difference

You have a choice between retirement programs: the ARP or STRS. Review the plan descriptions outlined here and in the foldout chart to help you determine which plan best meets your needs.

Defining the plans

The retirement plan options differ in several ways—the basic difference is in how benefits are determined.

- **The ARP and STRS Defined Contribution Plan are both defined contribution plans.**

In a defined contribution plan, your benefit is determined by the amount of your account balance and the payment option you choose. In this type of account, you and Ohio State contribute a percentage of your pay to a personal account and you decide how to allocate those contributions among a variety of investment choices.

You can design your own investment strategy to suit your needs and circumstances. Your account balance is equal to the contributions made to the plan by you and Ohio State and the investment earnings or losses your account experiences.

- **The STRS Defined Benefit Plan option is a defined benefit plan.**

In a defined benefit plan, your benefit is determined by a mathematical formula that uses your age, years of service, and final average salary¹ at the time of your retirement. You and Ohio State contribute to the retirement plan. Ohio State's contributions go into a general account that helps fund any potential future disability, survivor, and health care benefits. Contributions made by you remain in your personal account.

You do not make any investment allocation decisions for this account. You do not bear any investment risk.

¹ Determined according to plan guidelines; some limitations may exist.

- **The STRS Combined Plan option is a combination of the other two STRS plans—the Defined Contribution Plan and the Defined Benefit Plan.**

Your benefit is partially determined by the Defined Benefit Plan's mathematical formula that uses your years of service and final average salary, and partially determined by contributions to the plan and the investment earnings or losses on that account, as in the Defined Contribution Plan.

With this type of plan, you and Ohio State contribute to the retirement plan. Ohio State's contributions fund the defined benefit portion. Your contributions go to a personal account and you decide how to allocate those contributions among a variety of investment choices.

Characteristics of the ARP and STRS Defined Contribution Plan

Under a defined contribution (DC) plan like the ARP or STRS Defined Contribution Plan, you make the retirement investment decisions. You can customize your investments according to your tolerance for risk and your retirement time horizon. DC plans may be the better choice if you are willing to assume the investment risk and the possible rewards associated with long-term investing. DC plans:

- usually offer more flexible payout options.
- allow you to withdraw your account balance at any age after you terminate from service with Ohio State, should the need arise. **Note:** Applicable tax penalties will apply.

If you terminate employment before normal retirement age, your future DC plan benefits continue to grow.

Characteristics of the STRS Defined Benefit Plan

Withdrawals are subject to ordinary income tax. Withdrawals before age 59½ may also be subject to an additional 10% federal tax penalty.

The STRS Defined Benefit Plan provides a guaranteed benefit based on a mathematical formula at retirement. Daily financial market fluctuations do not affect your benefits. This would be beneficial if you want to avoid the ups and downs of the financial markets. Also, you bear no investment risk. This may provide a higher comfort level for those who want a known benefit at retirement. This plan:

- offers periodic cost of living adjustments (COLAs).
- currently provides additional benefits such as disability and survivor benefits, and, to the extent that funds are available, retiree health care benefits.

Characteristics of the STRS Combined Plan

In the STRS Combined Plan, benefits may accrue more evenly over your years of employment rather than nearer to retirement, as in the STRS Defined Benefit Plan. The Combined Plan provides a guaranteed benefit based on a mathematical formula at retirement. Daily financial market fluctuations do not affect your benefits. This would be beneficial if you want to avoid the ups and downs of the financial markets.

This plan provides you with the ability to make some investment decisions, currently provides additional benefits such as disability and survivor benefits, and, to the extent that funds are available, retiree health care benefits.

Enrolling in the ARP

If you decide to enroll in the ARP, you must complete the *Retirement Program Election Form* within the 120-day enrollment period.

The *Retirement Program Election Form* is available in your Retirement Program Choices Packet or online at hr.osu.edu/forms/#retirement.

You must also select an ARP provider to manage your retirement account and indicate your provider selection on the university *Retirement Program Election Form*. When making a provider selection, you should evaluate the provider's overall philosophy as well as its investment products. Contact the provider directly to request information or visit its web site. The provider contact information is available in this brochure or online at hr.osu.edu/benefits/retirementbenefits.

To complete the ARP enrollment process, you must contact an ARP provider and complete all of the required forms to establish an account. Your ARP account will not be opened with your selected provider until you complete this additional step.

Enrolling in STRS

If you decide to elect STRS, you must complete the *Retirement Program Election Form* within the 120-day period. You must also complete the *STRS Membership Record* form if you have not done so. These forms are available in your *Retirement Program Choices Packet*, online at hr.osu.edu/forms/#retirement, or from the Office of Human Resources Customer Service Center.

You will receive additional information from STRS regarding the investment options available to you. You have a total of 180 days from your eligible appointment date to choose between the STRS plans.

Investment Guidelines

Before you invest it is important to evaluate the retirement plan's and provider's overall philosophy and investment products. Each retirement provider offers a variety of investment funds with which you can build a financial portfolio. You should contact each retirement provider that you are interested in for information and prospectuses. Some of the key issues to consider are below.

Stability and experience

You want to entrust your retirement funds to an organization with the stability and experience to protect your investment. Evaluate each organization by reading through plan material and annual reports.

Retirement fund objectives

Look at each individual fund that is offered. Examine a fund's prospectus (a detailed document that describes investment objectives and strategies) and other materials.

Also consider:

- The types of investments in the fund's portfolio.
- The fund's statement of objectives, including the types of investments the fund will make and the risks that it may take to achieve its goals.
- Fund performance over the past one-, five-, and 10-year periods (compare periods by accounting for expenses and fees that impact performance).

Range of investments

Diversifying, or spreading your portfolio over a range of investments, is one of the best strategies for reducing risk. The four major asset classes include:

- Equities
- Fixed-income investments
- Guaranteed investments
- Real estate

Spreading your investments over these asset classes can give you the mix of safety and growth that is right for you.

Expenses and fees

All financial providers have expense charges that allow the companies to operate and provide various services. These fees include:

- Asset-based charges
- Sales fees (or "loads")
- Transfer fees
- Withdrawal fees
- Administration fees to cover advertising and marketing costs
- Maintenance fees

These fees may be deducted from your account monthly, quarterly, or annually. Expenses have a direct effect on your accumulation—the higher the expenses, the higher the fund's return has to be to make up for these additional expenses. Compare each provider's loads and expenses before you make your selection.

Retirement income options

You should look for a company that provides a wide variety of payment options so that when you retire, you will be able to choose a payment method(s) that meets your needs. Some issues to consider when choosing your payment method are:

- Your life expectancy (how long you will need to draw income).
- Whether you wish to provide for dependents during retirement and/or after your death.
- Other assets you will have to draw on in retirement in addition to your retirement plan.
- Whether to draw only a minimum payment at first to preserve the rest of your accumulation for later years or for your estate.

Service commitment

You will want to consider a provider that is committed to assisting you both during your working years and after you retire. Your retirement provider should offer:

- Local or toll-free customer service telephone center
- Personal counseling
- Information and assistance on planning for retirement
- Educational workshops
- Seminars
- Newsletters
- Quarterly and annual statements
- A web site that is easy to access and navigate

Comparison of Retirement Plan Options for Faculty

Feature	ARP Defined Contribution	STRS Defined Contribution	STRS Defined Benefit	STRS Combined
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible faculty with appointments of at least 75% FTE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All faculty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All faculty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All faculty
Enrollment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have 120 days from the date of your eligible appointment to make an election between ARP and STRS. You must complete the university Retirement Program Election Form contained in your Retirement Program Choices packet or available online at hr.osu.edu/benefits/forms/#retirement to indicate your ARP or STRS election. Your election is irrevocable. Return the university Retirement Program Election Form to the Office of Human Resources, Retirement Services within 120 days of the effective date of your eligible appointment. If you do not make an election, you will default into STRS. 			
Electing Plan Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have 120 days from the date of your eligible appointment to make an ARP election and open an account with your chosen provider. Contact a representative from an approved provider to establish an account and select investment options for both you and the university's contributions. A list of approved providers is on page 10 and available online at hr.osu.edu/benefits/retirementbenefits. To receive additional information about any provider, contact it directly or visit its web site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have up to 180 days from the effective date of your eligible appointment to make a plan election from among the three STRS plan options. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain the STRS New Hire Notification for University and College Employers from your department human resources contact or online at hr.osu.edu/forms/#retirement. Complete the form and return it to the Office of Human Resources, Retirement Services. Retirement Services will complete the necessary sections and send the completed form to STRS. Make your plan selection using the STRS Retirement Plan Selection Form for New Members included in the STRS–Ohio Retirement Plan Options packet. Return this form directly to STRS. If you choose one of the STRS plans that allows you to select investment allocations, contact a STRS representative to assist with your investment decision. 		
Plan Type	<p>Defined Contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Account balance consists of contributions made by you and Ohio State, as well as any investment return you may have on these contributions. The benefit amount is determined by your account balance and the payment option(s) you choose when you apply to receive benefits. 	<p>Defined Contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Account balance consists of contributions made by you and Ohio State, as well as any investment return you may have on these contributions. The benefit amount is determined by your account balance and the payment option(s) you choose when you apply to receive benefits. 	<p>Defined Benefit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The benefit amount is based on a formula using your age, years of service credit, and final average salary. 	<p>Combination of Defined Benefit (DB) and Defined Contribution (DC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DB portion: The DB benefit amount is based on a formula using your age, years of service credit, and final average salary. DC portion: The DC account balance consists of your contributions and your investment return; benefit is determined by your account balance and the payment option(s) you choose when you apply to receive benefits.
Employee Contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your pretax contribution is 10%¹ of your eligible gross compensation³ per pay. 			
University Contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ohio State contributes an amount equal to 14%¹ of your gross pay³ for retirement benefits, allocated as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10.5%¹ goes to your ARP account provider. 3.5%¹ goes to the STRS pension plan account to help fund past service liabilities, as required by law. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10.5%¹ goes to your STRS individual account. 3.5%¹ goes to the STRS pension plan account to help fund past service liabilities, as required by law. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14%¹ goes to the STRS pension plan account to help fund your future STRS DB retirement benefits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14%¹ goes to the STRS pension plan account to help fund your future STRS DB retirement benefits.
Vesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your contributions are immediately vested. University contributions are vested after one year of Ohio State service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your contributions are immediately vested. University contributions are vested after one year of Ohio State service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your contributions are immediately vested. After 1.5 years of service credit, you are vested for survivor benefits. After five years of service credit, you are vested for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an age and service retirement benefit. disability benefits.⁴ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your contributions are immediately vested. After 1.5 years of service credit, you are vested for survivor benefits. After five years of service credit, you are vested for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an age and service retirement benefit. disability benefits.⁴
How Your Benefit Grows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your account grows with contributions made by you and the university, as well as with any investment returns you may have on those contributions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your account grows with contributions made by you and the university, as well as with any investment returns you may have on those contributions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your benefit amount grows by adding years of service credit (earned or purchased) and with increases to your salary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DC portion: The DC account grows with your contributions, as well as with any investment returns you may have on those contributions. DB portion: The benefit amount from the DB portion grows by adding years of service credit and with increases to your salary.
Investment Management and Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You choose an approved ARP provider through which you invest and allocate contributions among a variety of investment options. You assume all investment risk and pay any associated management fees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributions are invested with STRS where you may allocate the contributions among a variety of investment options. You assume all investment risk and pay any associated management fees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STRS manages all assets to fund your benefits. You assume no investment risk and pay no management fees or related charges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DC portion: Contributions are invested with STRS. You allocate the contributions among a variety of investment options. You assume all investment risk and pay any associated management fees. DB portion: STRS manages all assets to fund your benefits. You assume no investment risk and pay no management fees.

Feature	ARP Defined Contribution	STRS Defined Contribution	STRS Defined Benefit	STRS Combined
Taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are important tax issues associated with how and when you may receive your benefit—consult with your tax advisor for more information. 			
Tax-Deferred Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your contributions are made on a pre-tax basis; federal and state taxes are deferred until benefits are paid. Benefits are exempt from local or municipal taxes within Ohio, except school district income tax. Any investment return your account earns is also tax-deferred. 			
Access to Funds at Termination/Retirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose from a number of options⁵: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leave your account balance with your ARP provider. Roll your vested contribution into another qualified account or IRA. Receive your contributions, vested university contributions, plus any earnings in any of the following ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partial or full cash withdrawal. Fixed-period payments over a set number of years. Systematic withdrawal. Single or joint life monthly annuity with continuing survivor protection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose from a number of options⁵: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leave your account on deposit for future benefits. Receive your vested account balance in any of the following ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rolling it into a new qualified account with a different employer. Rolling it into an IRA. Receiving it as a lump sum distribution. Receiving it as an annuity. Remain in the plan if you are employed with a different Ohio public college or university and are employed in an eligible position. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose from a number of options⁵: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leave your account on deposit for future benefits. Receive a lump sum refund of eligible contributions and interest, subject to plan guidelines. Roll your vested account funds into another qualified plan or IRA. Combine accrued benefits with any future public employment in Ohio for retirement purposes. Remain in the plan if you are employed with a different Ohio public college or university and are employed in an eligible position. Receive a retirement pension benefit based on the plan formula. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your options include⁵: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leave your account on deposit for future benefits. Remain in the plan if you are employed with a different Ohio public college or university and are employed in an eligible position. Options for the DC portion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive your contributions plus any earnings on those contributions in any of the following ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rolling them into an IRA. Receiving them as a lump sum distribution. Receiving them as an annuity. Option for the DB portion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members are eligible for the present value of DB benefits that would have been paid during retirement; if you terminate before five years of service credit, the value is zero.
Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No automatic cost-of-living adjustment is provided. ARP providers may offer an annuity benefit with payment options that allow retirees to keep pace with inflation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No automatic cost-of-living adjustment is provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A cost-of-living adjustment may be provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No automatic cost-of-living adjustment is provided.
Retirement Age (to Begin Receiving Plan Benefits)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may begin receiving retirement plan benefits at any age.⁵ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are eligible to annuitize your account balance at age 50. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can retire:⁴ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At age 60 with five years of service at a reduced benefit. At age 55 with 25 years of service at a reduced benefit. At any age with 30 years of service with no reduction in benefits. Note: If you have less than 30 years or are under age 65 at retirement, your benefits will be reduced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are eligible for a benefit from the DB portion at age 60. You are eligible to annuitize the DC account balance at age 50. You are not eligible to participate in early retirement incentive plans. You are not eligible for joint retirement.
Retiree Medical Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical benefits are not provided. You may also be eligible for Medicare benefits.⁴ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are not eligible for health care through STRS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may be eligible for health care through STRS.^{2,4} 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may be eligible for health care through STRS.^{2,4}
Disability Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separate disability benefits are not available. You are eligible to receive your vested account balance after separation of service in the event of a disability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separate disability benefits are not available. You are eligible to receive your vested account balance after separation of service in the event of a disability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may be eligible to apply for disability benefits.⁴ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may be eligible to apply for disability benefits.⁴
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While you are an active employee, Ohio State provides long-term disability benefits and offers a short-term disability option that you may purchase.⁴ 				
Survivor Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the event of your death, your beneficiary receives your vested account balance with the same benefit payment options available to you as a plan member. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the event of your death, your beneficiary receives your vested account balance with the same benefit payment options available to you as a plan member. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the event of your death, your beneficiary may be eligible to apply for survivor benefits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the event of your death, your beneficiary may be eligible to apply for survivor benefits.⁴
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While you are an active employee, Ohio State provides group term life insurance, offers voluntary group term life insurance that you may purchase, and provides a post-retirement life insurance option that you may purchase.⁴ 				
Impact on Social Security Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If eligible, there may be a reduction in your Social Security benefit. 			

¹ Subject to increase or decrease based on state and retirement system mandates.

² This benefit is not statutorily mandated and is not guaranteed.

³ Subject to federal limits. Refer to Retirement Contribution and Distribution Rates link at hr.osu.edu/benefits/retirementbenefits.

⁴ Based on eligibility requirements.

⁵ Withdrawals made before age 59½ may be subject to an additional federal penalty.

Note: This is intended to be a summary of plan provisions. For additional information, contact the Office of Human Resources, STRS, and/or your selected ARP provider.

Contacting a Retirement Provider

Now that you have had a chance to review all the information presented in this brochure, you need to select a retirement provider. You will find a listing of the approved retirement providers below. All of the providers for the Ohio ARP have been approved by the Ohio Department of Insurance. Contact your chosen retirement provider for its enrollment information, prospectuses, or annual report.

ARP Providers

AXA/Equitable Life Insurance Co.
c/o MainStreet Financial Services
777 E. Eisenhower Pkwy, Suite 106
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
1-800-551-2423
Local Rep: (614) 783-2000
axa-equitable.com/ohioarp

Fidelity Investments
100 Crosby Parkway MZ: KC1E
Covington, KY 41015
1-800-642-7131
plan.fidelity.com/osu

Great American Life Ins. Co.
c/o Annuity Investors Life Insurance
525 Vine St., 7th Fl.
Cincinnati, OH 45202
1-800-789-6771
gafri.com

The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc.
C/O The Pryor Sharma Group
Merrill Lynch Global Wealth Management Advisors
8425 Pulsar Place, Suite 200
Columbus, OH 43240
(614) 825-4050 1-877-899-4050
fa.ml.com/the_pryor_sharma_group

ING Financial Advisers
7965 N. High St., Suite 150
Columbus, OH 43235
(614) 431-5000
1-800-862-4287
INGRetirementPlans.com/custom/ohioarp

Lincoln Financial Group
118 Graceland Blvd., PMB #212
Columbus, OH 43214
(614) 261-0055
1-877-700-6507
lfg.com/osu

Nationwide “Best of America”
c/o Advisory & Retirement Planning
6831 Brodie Blvd.
Dublin, OH 43017
(614) 761-9378
1-888-326-6242
advisoryretirementplanning.com

TIAA-CREF
485 Metro Place South, Suite 450
Dublin, OH 43017-5335
(614) 659-1000
1-877-ARP-OHIO (1-877-277-6446)
enroll.tiaa-cref.org/osu

VALIC
8050 N. High St, Suite 130
Columbus, OH 43235
(614) 436-4501
1-800-44-VALIC (1-800-448-2542)
valic.com

State Retirement Providers

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS)
277 E. Town St.
Columbus, OH 43215-4642
1-800-222-PERS (1-800-222-7377)
opers.org

State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS)
275 E. Broad St.
Columbus, OH 43215-3771
1-888-227-STRS (1-888-227-7877)
www.strsoh.org

