

Contacting Other Systems

If you have service credit with one of the following retirement systems, contact them to apply for reciprocal service credit.

Arkansas Teachers Retirement System (ATRS)

501-682-1517 or 1-800-666-2877

Website: www.atrs.org

Arkansas State Highway Employees Retirement System (ASHERS)

501-569-2412 or 1-800-422-9833

Local Police and Fire Retirement System (LOPFI)

501-682-1745 or 1-800-422-9833

Website: www.lopfi-prb.com

NOTE

APERS provides administrative support for:

- The Arkansas Judicial Retirement System (AJRS);
- the Arkansas State Police Retirement System (ASPRS); and
- the Arkansas District Judges Retirement System (ADJRS).

You should contact APERS to inquire about establishing reciprocal service credit with these retirement plans.

For more information contact:

Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System

124 W. Capitol Ave. Suite 400
Little Rock, AR 72201

(501) 682-7800 or 1-800-682-7377

www.apers.org

“As much as possible, this brochure has been written in non-technical terms, avoiding the formal language of the retirement laws, rules and regulations. Any conflict between the information contained in this brochure and those retirement laws, rules and regulations must be resolved pursuant to the governing statutes, rules and regulations.

If questions about interpretation arise as a result of the attempt to make the retirement provisions easy to understand, Chapters 2, 4, and parts of 7 of Title 24 of the Arkansas Code Annotated (1987), as amended, as well as APERS promulgated regulations, must remain the final authority.

The information provided in this brochure is based on the Arkansas Retirement System laws and rules in existence at the time this brochure was published and is subject to future modification based on changes in the law.”

APERS



**Reciprocal
Service**

What Is Reciprocal Service?

Reciprocal service is actual service credit in two or more recognized state retirement systems. Actual service doesn't transfer but remains in the system of record.

When to Establish Reciprocity

For members who may have service credit in one or more Arkansas Retirement Systems should complete and submit a reciprocal form prior to receiving a retirement benefit from any System.

To establish reciprocal service credit, you must complete a **Request to Establish Reciprocal Service Credit** form. The form can be found on APERS website. Under the "Forms" button, click on the "Active Member Forms" link. Listed under "Member Requests" is the "Reciprocal Service Request" form. A form can also be mailed to you if you call APERS and request one at 501-682-7800 or 1-800-682-7377.

Arkansas Retirement Systems

When reciprocity is established, APERS will recognize actual service in all state-supported retirement systems for determining eligibility for benefits. However, salary from the reciprocal system is only utilized in the "True" reciprocal systems. In this case, APERS will use the highest final average salary yielded for a member. The "True" reciprocal systems are:

- Arkansas Teachers Retirement System (ATRS)
- Arkansas State Highway Employees Retirement System (ASHERS)

- Arkansas State Police Retirement System (ASPRS)
- Arkansas District Judges Retirement System (ADJRS)
- Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System (LOPFI)

"Limited" reciprocal service recognizes only the service. The "limited" reciprocal systems are:

- Arkansas Judicial Retirement System (AJRS)
- TIAA-CREF
- VALIC (and other similar plans)

How Does Reciprocity Help Members?

Reciprocity allows a member to use his or her actual service credit in two or more of the Systems to meet the minimum service requirements for retirement in each System.

Example:

A current APERS member needs 28 years of actual service to retire with full benefits from APERS at any age. (Most retirement systems have different vesting requirements, and different mandatory age and service requirements that must be met for retirement eligibility.)

In this example, a member has 25 years of actual service with APERS, and three (3) years of actual service with the Arkansas Teachers Retirement System (ATRS). The member can establish reciprocity between the two plans and have a total of 28 years of combined service. With 28 years of combined service the member can apply for an unreduced retirement benefit, or enter into the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP).

The member's monthly benefit from APERS will be calculated only on the 25 years of actual service reported to APERS. The member's benefit from ATRS will be calculated using the three (3) years of service reported to ATRS.

APERS Board Regulation 209

APERS Regulation 209 of 1993 states: "If a member has reciprocal service during the same *fiscal year** with both the Teacher Retirement System (ATRS) and the Public Employees Retirement System (APERS), and if, under the two systems' standard methods of crediting service, the combined service amounts to more than one full year of actual service, then credit shall be reduced in a manner that is most advantageous to the member (determined jointly by APERS and ATRS) so that in any given fiscal year, actual service shall not exceed one (1) year.

* *Fiscal year period is July 1 - June 30.*

Applying for Retirement Benefits

Members are required to apply to each reciprocal retirement system separately and will be paid separately by each system at retirement. The benefit from each plan will be based on the service accrued in each system.

You can find additional brochures on other topics as well as other publications, on the APERS website.

www.apers.org