



2019

# Retirement Savings Guide

Important information regarding

- 457(b) and 403(b) Saving Plans
- TRS and Social Security
- Rollover Options
- Plan Rules



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A smiling man with glasses and a woman with a young child in the background. The man is wearing a light blue shirt and glasses, and the woman is wearing a light-colored top. The child is a young girl with long hair, wearing a white shirt. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera.

# Gear up for the journey

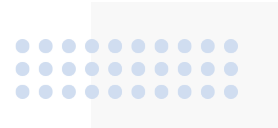


Life is full of turns you don't expect, joys you will always remember, and trials that will never stop coming. Some things you plan for—like marriage, school, a car, or retirement. Some things come at you straight out of left field—like a car accident, divorce, disability, or a death in the family. For the events you expect to happen, we've got your back in developing a strategy to help you prepare for achieving your goals. In the same way, the key to getting through the unexpected events is having a plan in place. You may not know what's coming, but you can surely be ready for it.

At TCG, we are devoted to providing unbiased, professional investment advice because we are resolute on seeing you succeed. Your journey with us will begin wherever you happen to be—single, married, in school, retired, etc.—and it will expand as your needs, wants, and dreams continue to change.

**Let's get to work!**

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# **Financial Stress** is real and we are here to fight it.

## DID YOU KNOW

**7 IN 10**

AMERICANS  
REPORT HIGH  
FINANCIAL STRESS

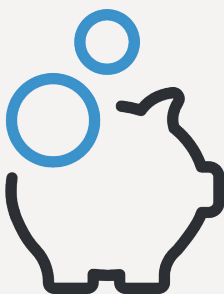
**66%**

OF MILLENNIALS HAVE  
ZERO IN RETIREMENT  
SAVINGS

**77%**

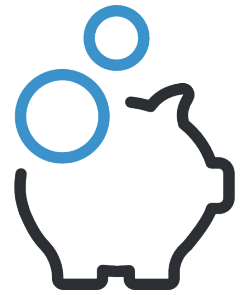
OF PRE-RETIRES  
HAVE CONCERN ON  
MEETING INFLATION

**We're here to help you spend less time worrying about your money so you can focus on making memories with your loved ones.**



This guide was created to help you understand key elements of the retirement saving plans available to you through your employer. Having a clear understanding of the Teachers Retirement System (TRS), 403(b), and 457(b) Retirement Saving Plans can help lead a successful journey towards financial independence.

# 457(b) Savings Plan



Your employer offers the RAMS 457(b) plan as a way to help you save for life beyond your prime working years. A 457(b) plan allows you to save money by making salary contributions on pre-tax basis or Roth (if your plan allows). You have full ability to start, stop, increase or decrease contributions at any time.

While your TRS pension may be enough to cover your expenses when you first retire, your reduced monthly income may not be sufficient for factors like medical bills, taxes, and your desired standard of living. You need a low-fee, high quality savings plan to help you meet a comfortable lifestyle upon retirement.

## Plan Highlights

- ✓ Low and transparent fees
- ✓ No 10% early distribution penalty tax
- ✓ No surrender charges or hidden fees
- ✓ No product commissions
- ✓ Start/stop contributions at any time
- ✓ Professionally-managed portfolios
- ✓ Fiduciary oversight by TCG Advisors
- ✓ FinPath Wellness (see next page)

## Investment Options



### Target Date Funds

EASY CHOICE

This is a simple investment strategy based on your desired retirement date. Target Date Funds automatically adjust for you over time so there's no need to worry about reviewing the plan often.

Select your target retirement date from the list below and sit back as the fund manages the allocations for you.

- » TIAA-CREF **Target Date 2015**
- » TIAA-CREF **Target Date 2020**
- » TIAA-CREF **Target Date 2025**
- » TIAA-CREF **Target Date 2030**
- » TIAA-CREF **Target Date 2035**
- » TIAA-CREF **Target Date 2040**
- » TIAA-CREF **Target Date 2045**
- » TIAA-CREF **Target Date 2050**
- » TIAA-CREF **Target Date 2055**
- » TIAA-CREF **Target Date 2060+**
- » TIAA-CREF **Retirement**



### Managed Portfolios

EASY CHOICE

Our customized investment portfolios are adjusted to your desired risk tolerance and retirement readiness. Decide your approach and select any of the portfolio options below.

- » **Aggressive Growth** (Age Range 20-45)
- » **Growth** (Age Range 30-40)
- » **Signature Portfolio** (Default Plan)
- » **Moderately Conservative** (Age Range 40-60)
- » **Conservative** (Age Range 50-60)
- » **Preservation** (Age Range 55+)



### Self-Directed

EXPERTS ONLY

If you are a hands-on type of investor, you'll be happy to know you can customize your own set of investment strategies. This option is best left for experienced investors, so don't feel like you have to choose this!

## 457(b) Savings Plan (Continued)



### FinPath — Financial Wellness For Everyone, Including You

Eliminating your family's financial stress is now within your control! FinPath is an advanced platform that blends technology and human touch from Wellness Coaches to help you understand complex topics like retirement, banking, budgeting, insurance, debt management and more. Now you don't have to scramble all over the internet next time you're unsure how you should manage your money.

FinPath is included with your 457(b) retirement plan. You can:

- ✓ Take a quick survey to get your Financial Wellness Score
- ✓ Get one-on-one assistance on how to manage your money
- ✓ Access FinPath University courses on topics important to you
- ✓ See all your financial accounts in one main dashboard
- ✓ Win prizes from monthly contests



### 2019 Contribution Limits

IRS rules say you may contribute up to \$19,000 if you are under the age of 50. Individuals over the age of 50 qualify to make an additional contribution of \$6,000 for a combined total of \$25,000.

### Retirement Contributions Tax Credit

Also known as the Saver's Credit, an individual may be able to take a tax credit of up to \$1,000 (\$2,000 if filing jointly) for making eligible contributions to an employer-sponsored retirement plan.

**REGISTER TODAY**

Visit [www.region10rams.org/enroll](http://www.region10rams.org/enroll)

Simply choose your desired monthly contribution and investment option!

# 403(b) Savings Plan

Another option you may consider when planning for retirement is a 403(b) Savings Plan. While very similar to a 457(b) plan, there is a more involvement required on your behalf to get started. You must first establish a 403(b) account with an investment provider from a list of 50+ TRS-approved vendors, and then elect contributions on a pretax or Roth basis (if available).

Enrolling in a 403(b) savings plan can help bring financial stability and security for life upon retirement. By participating, you can lower your current taxes or earn tax-free income, bridge your retirement income gap, and achieve financial independence.

## Why Contribute

- ✓ Avoid a gap in your income during retirement
- ✓ Take advantage of tax benefits
- ✓ Improve your financial wellbeing
- ✓ Automatic payroll deductions take stress out of planning
- ✓ Decrease your dependency on government-funded pension plans

## Investment Options

Investments in the plan are managed by a provider of your choosing, and plan administration services are provided by TCG Administrators. Once you have established your plan, TCG can help with distributions, transfers, loans, and rollovers. Investment questions must always be directed to your individual plan provider.

## 2019 Contribution Limits

You may contribute up to \$19,000 if you are under the age of 50. Individuals over the age of 50 qualify to make an additional contribution of \$6,000 for a combined total of \$25,000. The contribution limits are independent of a 457(b) and you can simultaneously contribute to both a 403(b) and a 457(b) plan.

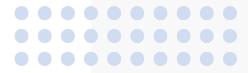
## HOW TO REGISTER

### STEP ONE: Create an account with an approved vendor

- » Visit [www.region10rams.org/403b-vendors](http://www.region10rams.org/403b-vendors).
- » Evaluate and contact a vendor on the list and contact them directly to establish your retirement account.

### STEP TWO: Setup online RAMS account access

- » Visit [www.region10rams.org/enroll](http://www.region10rams.org/enroll).
- » Click the Enroll button and enter your employer on the following page.
- » Follow each step until you get a confirmation notice... & you're done!



# 403(b) vs 457(b) Plan Comparison

Feature	RAMS 457(b)	403(b)
<b>Contribution maximum limits (can contribute to both plans)</b>	2019: \$19,000; \$25,000 age 50+	2019: \$19,000; \$25,000 age 50+
<b>Retirement Contributions Tax Credit</b>	Up to \$1,000 (\$2,000 if filing jointly)	Up to \$1,000 (\$2,000 if filing jointly)
<b>Early withdrawal penalty tax</b>	None	10% (goes away at age 59½ or age 55 and retired)
<b>Investment options</b>	Managed allocations or self-directed mutual funds.	Fixed/Variable interest annuities or mutual funds/custodial accounts
<b>Investment committee/advisor oversight</b>	Yes, managed by TCG Advisors and Investment Advisory Committee.	No
<b>Distribution restrictions</b>	Funds can be requested upon: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age 70 1/2</li> <li>• Separation from employer</li> <li>• Disability</li> <li>• Death</li> <li>• Unforeseeable emergency</li> </ul>	Funds can be requested upon: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age 59 1/2</li> <li>• Age 55 and/or leaving employer</li> <li>• Disability</li> <li>• Death</li> <li>• Financial hardship</li> </ul>
<b>Financial hardship distributions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical care</li> <li>• Casualty loss</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical care</li> <li>• Foreclosure/eviction</li> <li>• Tuition payment</li> <li>• Buying a home</li> </ul>
<b>Loans</b>	Permitted with loans from all qualified plans limited to the lesser of 50,000 or one half of vested benefits (or \$10,000 if greater)	Permitted with loans from all qualified plans limited to the lesser of 50,000 or one half of vested benefits (or \$10,000 if greater)
<b>Required minimum distributions</b>	RMS rules apply at age 70 1/2 or later, severance from service, and also after death.	RMS rules apply at age 70 1/2 or later, severance from service, and also after death

## RESOURCES

# Teachers Retirement System (TRS)

### About TRS

The Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) administers a pension trust fund that has been serving the needs of Texas public education employees for over 75 years.

### How much do I qualify for at retirement with TRS?

See the following example of how to apply the TRS Formula.

*John Q. Teacher started working as a teacher for the school district in September of 1989 right out of college. He is ready to retire at the end of this school year (2019). His highest 3 years of salary were \$58,000, \$60,000, and \$62,000. He would like to know how much he qualifies for at retirement.*

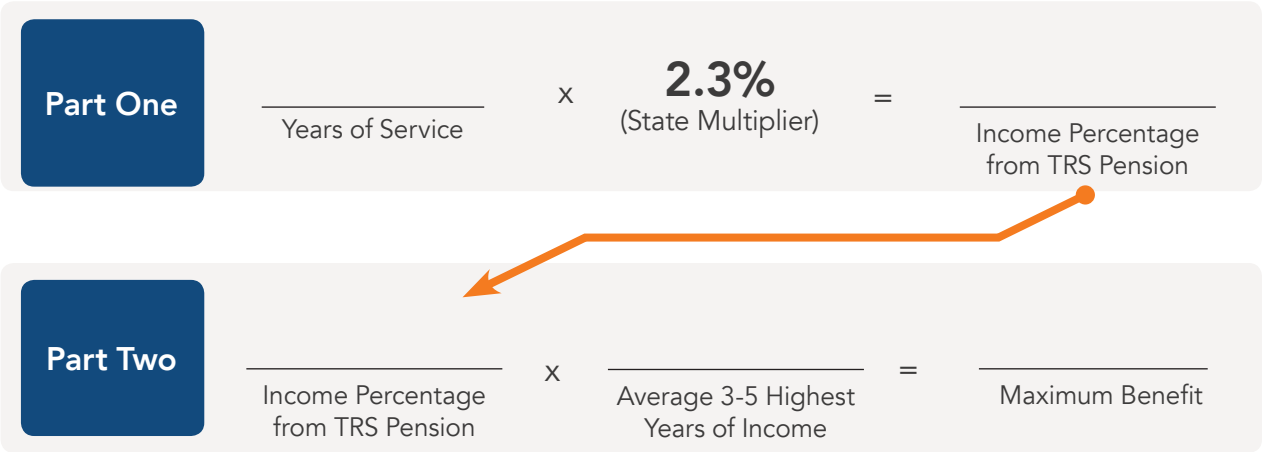
John can use the **TRS Formula** below to find this out:

Years of Service	x	State Multiplier (2.3%)	x	Average 3-5 Highest Years of Income	=	Maximum Benefit
30	x	2.3%	x	\$60,000	=	\$41,400



### Your turn!

Let's break up the TRS formula for your own individual situation!







# Rollover Options

## What are my rollover options if I leave my employer?

You have a few options to consider when it comes time to leave your employer. It all depends on where you are in your financial journey.

### Option 1: Leave money in previous employer's plan (if permitted)

- Benefits:** No immediate action is required. Earnings remain tax-deferred.
- Disadvantages:** Can no longer contribute through payroll contribution. It's more complicated managing multiple plans from different employers

### Option 2: Rollover your money to your new employer's plan

- Benefits:** The plan remains tax-deferred; you can continue to contribute; your plans are now consolidated.
- Disadvantages:** Requires paperwork and approvals; this process can be somewhat time-consuming.

### Option 3: Rollover your money into an IRA

- Benefits:** The plan remains tax-deferred; you may have access to more investment providers and investment options.
- Disadvantages:** You cannot borrow money from these accounts.



# Key Plan Information

## Who is TCG?

TCG is an investment advisor and retirement plan administrator based in Austin, Texas. Your employer has chosen TCG as the primary group retirement plan partner for your organization. TCG will help manage any questions pertaining to your 457(b) retirement account and can help process limited transactions for your 403(b) account.

## How do I register for a new plan?

Check each plan page for specific instructions how to register.

## How do I request a distribution or a loan?

Visit [www.tcgservices.com/documents](http://www.tcgservices.com/documents) for a list of all available plan forms and conditions. Please fill in the required information and send via fax to 888-989-9247 or by email to [info@tcgservices.com](mailto:info@tcgservices.com).

## What are the eligibility requirements?

Eligibility for plans depend on your status as an employee. Please consult with your HR department for specific requirements and eligibility questions.

## Who can I contact?

Review the list below to contact the specific vendor you are looking for.

Plan	Vendor	Phone Number	Website
<b>457(b) Retirement Savings Plan</b>	TCG Administrators	800.943.9179	<a href="http://www.region10rams.org">www.region10rams.org</a>
<b>403(b) Retirement Savings Plan</b>	TCG Administrators	800.943.9179	<a href="http://www.region10rams.org">www.region10rams.org</a>
TRS	Teacher Retirement System	800.223.8778	<a href="http://www.trs.texas.gov">www.trs.texas.gov</a>
<b>Social Security</b>	Social Security	800.772.1213	<a href="http://www.ssa.gov">www.ssa.gov</a>



## Schedule an Appointment

We know planning for the future isn't easy. At TCG, we have Retirement Plan Specialists available to help you continue your journey to financial wellness!

**LET'S MEET**

Visit [www.region10rams.org/checkup](http://www.region10rams.org/checkup)

## IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

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