

## Retirement Timeline

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- You should contact SDRS approximately 3-6 months prior to your intended retirement date.
- You must file an SDRS Form B-2, “Applying for SDRS Retirement Benefits” with SDRS at least one complete calendar month prior to your retirement.
- Prior to your retirement, you must provide SDRS with a legible photocopy of:
  - \* Your birth certificate
  - \* Your spouse’s birth certificate, if applicable
  - \* Your marriage certificate, if applicable
- All retirement benefits are effective the first day of the month.
- Your final paycheck from your employer must be prior to the effective date of your retirement. You may not receive your final paycheck and your SDRS retirement benefit in the same month.



## Retirement Planning Information



South Dakota Retirement System  
222 East Capitol Avenue • Pierre, SD 57501  
(888) 605-SDRS • [www.sdrs.sd.gov](http://www.sdrs.sd.gov)



July 2016

South Dakota Retirement System  
222 East Capitol Avenue • Pierre, SD 57501  
(888) 605-SDRS • (605) 773-3731  
[www.sdrs.sd.gov](http://www.sdrs.sd.gov)

## Terminology

**Normal Retirement:** The age at which you are entitled to retire with an unreduced benefit, provided you have at least three years of contributory service. For Class A and Class B Judicial members, this is age 65. For Class B Public Safety members, this is age 55.

**Special Early Retirement:** A combination of age and years of credited service that permits Class A and Class B Judicial members to retire as early as age 55 (age 45 for Class B Public Safety members) with an unreduced benefit. Special Early Retirement is governed by the Rule of 85 for Class A credited service, the Rule of 80 for Class B Judicial credited service, and the Rule of 75 for Class B Public Safety credited service.

**Early Retirement:** Retirement prior to Normal Retirement age whereby the SDRS retirement benefit is permanently reduced by three percent for each year prior to Normal Retirement age. Class A and Class B Judicial members may choose Early Retirement as early as age 55 with three years of contributory service. Class B Public Safety members may choose Early Retirement as early as age 45 with three years of contributory service.

**Delayed Retirement:** Working past your Normal Retirement age.

## Retirement Benefit Estimate

Your retirement benefit estimate is based on your years of credited service and your current final average compensation. Until your employer reports your final compensation and contributions to SDRS, the exact amount of your retirement benefit is subject to adjustment.

## Retroactive Benefit Payments

Your application for SDRS retirement benefits must be received at least one complete calendar month prior to your retirement. If you fail to make timely application for your retirement benefits, you may be eligible to receive up to three months of retroactive benefits to be paid with your first benefit payment. Subsequent benefit payments will revert to the regular benefit amount.

## Level Income Payment Option

If you are interested in the Level Income Payment Option, you must secure your estimated age 62 Social Security benefit and provide it to SDRS at least one complete calendar month prior to your retirement. You may either:

- Secure updated information from Social Security, which typically takes six to eight weeks, or
- Furnish SDRS with a copy of your Social Security statement. For workers age 60 and over, your statement is mailed to you approximately three months prior to your birthday. If you do not receive a paper statement, you may also obtain your Social Security statement online at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount).

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Can I become reemployed after I retire?

Any SDRS retiree contemplating a return to SDRS-covered employment should contact SDRS for further details prior to obtaining employment.

SDRS retirees that become reemployed with an SDRS-participating employer must recognize the **regulatory benefit restrictions and reductions** that are required by South Dakota Codified Law Chapter 3-12.

### What does “reduced” mean?

“Reduced” means that the retirement benefit paid to you is less than the amount calculated under the benefit formula. The reduction is intended to share the cost of taking the retirement benefit early.

If you retire with a reduced benefit and later return to permanent full-time employment with an SDRS participating unit, your retirement benefit will be suspended during the reemployment period.

### Can SDRS start my Social Security benefits?

No, you must contact the Social Security Administration to initiate your Social Security benefit payments. Visit [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) or call 1-800-772-1213 for further information or to find office locations.