



RETIREMENT SYSTEM

**JUDICIAL PENSION PLAN
HANDBOOK**

Wyoming Retirement System Board

Board Members

WRS is administered by an 11-member Board, which includes the state treasurer, two public employees, two employees representing the public school system or higher education, one retired member of WRS, and five qualified Wyoming electors not employed by any participating employer of WRS. All Board members, with the exception of the state treasurer, are appointed by the governor for terms of six years. Board members are legally required to act in the best interest of the members of WRS.

Board Responsibilities

The Board holds quarterly public meetings and establishes rules and regulations for administering the pension and 457 plans. The Board employs a director, who serves as its secretary and is responsible for managing the staff and daily operation of WRS.

With guidance from the executive director and the chief investment officer, the Board provides oversight on the investment of all retirement funds and monitors the performance of the investment managers hired. The Board contracts with an actuarial firm to value the funding levels of each plan and study trends.

The executive director administers the program within the framework of the Board's rules and regulations and the Wyoming Retirement Act. The Board renders final administrative decisions on benefit issues that have been appealed by members.

Wyoming Retirement System is financed from three sources:

- Contributions from members
- Contributions from employers, and
- Income earned on invested funds

Administrative expenses for the Pensions are paid from WRS funds, while administrative expenses for Deferred Compensation comes from members.

Please visit our website, retirement.wyo.gov for a list of current board members.

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INTRODUCTION

This handbook is for members of the Judicial Pension Plan. The Wyoming Retirement System (WRS) also administers seven other pension plans for different groups of employees, as well as the Deferred Compensation 457 plan. The state statutes authorizing the Judicial Pension Plan are W.S. 9-3-701 through 9-3-713, along with portions of the Wyoming Retirement Act and Uniform Management of Public Employees Retirement Act (W.S. 9-3-401 through 9-3-454) incorporated by reference, as well as the WRS Board's rules.

Pension Plan Basics

Once you meet certain qualifications, a pension will provide a monthly payment for life. This type of retirement plan is a "defined benefit" plan because a formula defines the benefit you receive when you retire. A pension has three key features:

- I. In most cases, your future benefit grows as long as you are working for an employer in the Judicial Pension Plan and is based on your age, salary, and years of service. As your years of service and salary increase, so does your future benefit.
- II. Your benefit is not generally affected by investment gains or losses. WRS assumes the responsibility for investing all contributions and earnings with the goal of funding your lifelong pension benefit.
- III. You cannot outlive your benefit, even after you deplete your account balance. Typically, a retiree draws all the funds from his or her account within three to five years of retiring, after which your benefit is paid with WRS investment earnings. In the unlikely event WRS did not have enough assets to pay pension benefits, the State of Wyoming would not necessarily be obligated to make these payments.

In contrast to a pension plan is a defined contribution retirement plan, such as a 457, 403(b), 401(k), or IRA, in which you specify (define) your contribution amount, you make your own investment decisions, and the benefit you are building is the balance in your account. WRS administers a supplemental defined contribution 457 plan, which can work in conjunction with your pension to help you build a financially secure retirement.

Enrolling in the Judicial Pension Plan

All Wyoming circuit court judges, district court judges, and supreme court justices appointed on or after July 1, 1998, are required to participate in the Judicial Pension Plan. Your employer will use information you provide them to enroll you in the plan.

If you were appointed prior to July 1, 1998, and opted into the Judicial Pension Plan, you may have the option to opt out of the plan prior to retirement. Contact WRS for details.

WRS also administers other pension plans for specific groups of employees such as public employees, game wardens, highway patrol officers, DCI investigators, law enforcement personnel, corrections officers, paid firefighters, volunteer firefighters, EMTs, and Search & Rescue. To verify which pension plan you belong to, check with your employer or contact WRS.

Keeping Beneficiaries & Contact Information Up-to-Date

After your employer submits your information to WRS, an email will automatically be sent to you at the email address your employer provided for you when registering you as a pension plan member. **It is important that you log in to your online pension account (outlined later in this handbook) to add beneficiaries and verify your information.**

Existing members can make changes to contact information and beneficiaries by logging into your online pension account. It is important that your contact information is up to date to ensure you receive statements and other correspondence. Forms to complete changes are also available on WRS' website or by request.

RETIREMENT PLANNING RESOURCES

Estimating Your Retirement Income Needs

Financial experts estimate most people will need 70 to 90 percent of their pre-retirement income to maintain the lifestyle they had before they stopped working. However, because each individual has unique needs, you should consider your personal retirement goals. The American Savings Education Council indicates you may want to plan to replace 100 percent or more of your pre-retirement income if you have not reached your prime earning years, want an enhanced retirement lifestyle, or expect high medical expenses in retirement.

Benefits provided under the pension plans administered by WRS represent one aspect of your retirement assets and should not be expected to replace 100 percent of your pre-retirement income. Cost-of-living and other benefit increases are not incorporated into your benefit, emphasizing the importance for you to build additional resources for retirement income, such as with the WRS Deferred Compensation 457 Plan or other retirement vehicles.

WRS Retirement Planning Resources

- The WRS website at retirement.wyo.gov provides access to your online pension account and has a wide variety of information, including videos, useful links and benefit calculators to help you project your future benefit.
- WRS retirement educators provide informational retirement seminars and one-on-one meetings regarding your WRS accounts. View the schedule of retirement seminars on our website, or contact WRS to schedule an appointment with a retirement educator.

PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS & YOUR ACCOUNT

Pension Contributions

While you are working, both you and your employer make contributions each month to fund your future pension benefit. WRS is responsible for investing all of the contributions. You do not direct the investments of your pension as you do with retirement assets in any defined contribution plans you may have.

Contribution rates for the Judicial Pension Plan are set in state law. As of this handbook's publication date, the total contribution is 23.72 percent, with employees contributing 9.22 percent and employers contributing 14.5 percent. As of the print date of this handbook, employers in this plan are "picking up" a portion of the employee contribution equal to 5.57% of the employee's salary, leaving 3.65% of the employee's contribution to be paid by the employee.

Your Pension Account

A separate account is maintained for each member of WRS, showing the amount of contributions and accrued interest. Your account balance includes only the employee contributions plus accrued interest on that balance. Your account balance is not directly related to your retirement benefit should you meet eligibility requirements to retire from the plan. Account balances are used to determine refund amounts and pre-retirement death benefits. At retirement, your benefit is initially paid from your account balance until it is exhausted, after which it is paid from WRS investment earnings.

Additional funds may not be sent in excess of the contribution rate. Your benefit is not based on your contributions or your account balance; it is based on your years of service, salary, and age at retirement.

Increasing Your Pension Benefit Through a Service Purchase

Currently employed and vested members of the Judicial Pension Plan may make a one-time purchase of up to five years of service in the plan. Honorably discharged U.S. Military veterans may make an additional one-time service purchase, with the total of both service purchases not to exceed eight years. If you make a service purchase, it will count as service credit as if you had been participating in the plan for the time purchased. A service purchase is a voluntary decision. It is up to you to determine if transferring assets and deferring the future return potential of those assets in order to purchase years of service in the pension is right for you.

A service purchase must be made in a lump sum. You may use a non-taxable rollover of assets from other qualified pre-tax retirement savings vehicles, such as 401(k), 403(b), 401(a), 457, or traditional IRA plans, to make this purchase. You cannot purchase service with a rollover from after-tax or Roth retirement assets. The assumptions, underlying methodology, and other features of the service purchase calculation can change without notice as WRS manages the system in the overall best interest of all members. A service purchase cost estimator is available on the WRS website. For further information and an official service purchase price, contact WRS.

Interest on Your Account Balance

Interest is calculated on non-retiree account balances at a rate determined by the WRS Board and is added to your account monthly at a compounded rate. The current rate is posted on the WRS website.

Loans from Pension Accounts

You cannot borrow against your account. Your account cannot be attached or garnished until you take a refund or start drawing a retirement benefit.

Record Confidentiality

Your account records cannot be released to any party, including your employer, unless you authorize it, in writing, or a court order directs the records be available for inspection or release.

Accessing Account Information & Statements

Access to your account information is available online through your online pension account. To access your online pension account, visit retirement.wyo.gov, where you can view your account statement, change your address or other personal information, obtain an estimate of your future benefit, request a refund, or submit a retirement request.

Annual account statements are posted to your online pension account in the first quarter of the calendar year. You will be notified when your statement is available. If you would prefer a copy be mailed to you, please contact WRS or opt out of electronic statements in your online pension account.

Your statement shows the amount you contributed and the amount of accrued interest through Dec. 31 of the preceding year. It also gives an estimate of your retirement benefit at your earliest unreduced retirement age using the previous year's account information. The benefit estimate on your statement is based on specific assumptions. Therefore, the estimates may vary if the assumptions are not applicable to you. As an example, estimates assume full-time service. If any of your service is part-time, the estimate will likely overstate the actual benefit.

It is important to review your statement and verify the address and beneficiary information listed. You can manage changes to these items through your online pension account or by contacting WRS.

AMOUNT OF YOUR BENEFIT

Your benefit is based on a formula involving your months of service, highest average salary, and age at retirement. Your benefit is not based on how much you and your employer have contributed to your retirement account.

Generally, your benefit is not subject to anything that would cause you to be disqualified, ineligible, denied, or lose your retirement benefit. However, there are some circumstances, including divorce and employer reporting error, in which a benefit may be reduced. Once you begin drawing a retirement benefit or elect to take a refund, disbursements from your pension account are considered income and may be subject to attachment or garnishment, as with any other form of income.

Highest Average Salary

The highest average salary is calculated by averaging your highest 36 months of continuous acceptable salary. The WRS Board has defined what is acceptable as salary in Chapter Eight of its administrative rules. Acceptable “cash remuneration” includes pay for services rendered; pay for used administrative, sabbatical, annual, sick, vacation, or personal leave; pay for compensatory time, provided any such pay for compensatory time was earned during the last 12 months, and any retroactive compensation payments pursuant to court orders, arbitration awards, or litigation and grievance settlements.

Cash remuneration does not include fringe benefits such as payments for unused sick, personal, or vacation leave; housing allowances; transportation expenses; early retirement incentive pay; severance pay; bonuses; medical insurance; workers’ compensation benefits (except for state agencies and the University of Wyoming); disability insurance premiums or benefits; payments received in lieu of previously employer-provided fringe benefits under an agreement between the member and participating employer entered into within 60 months before retirement; any other payment which may reasonably be construed to be a fringe benefit; or any payment made during any period of employment which is deemed to increase highest average salary for the primary purpose of increasing a retirement benefit.

The rule includes a mechanism to review and limit the increases in your highest average salary if the Board finds, after consideration of all circumstances, that the primary purpose of the compensation increase was to increase your retirement benefit.

Months of Service

One month of service is calculated based on the number of hours you work in a month. If you work 86 or more hours, you are credited one full month of service; 40 to 85 hours equals one half (1/2) month of service; and between 1 and 39 hours worked in a month is credited as one quarter (1/4) month of service. If you work part time in two or more contributing positions, your combined reported hours would determine your service credit, up to a full service credit. A member may not accrue more than one full month of service credit in a given month.

Estimating Your Benefit

As a Judicial Pension Plan member, your benefit is calculated by multiplying your highest average salary by the below factors:

- Four percent for each of the first five years of credited service
- Three percent for each year from six through fifteen
- Two percent for each year from sixteen through twenty
- One percent for each year from twenty-one and above

A table of benefits is included at the back of this publication for reference. Use the benefit calculator available on the WRS website at retirement.wyo.gov for an unofficial estimate of your retirement benefit based on information you input. If you are vested, an estimate of your retirement benefit is available in your online pension account. The estimate is based on information specific to your current salary, service, and account information.

RETIREMENT ELIGIBILITY

Vesting Requirements

After obtaining 48 months of service, you are eligible to elect a monthly benefit at retirement age. The 48 months of service do not have to be consecutive months.

Retirement Eligibility Ages

You are eligible for unreduced (“full”) retirement when:

- you reach age 65 and are vested; or
- you reach age 60 and have 20 years of service; or
- you reach age 70 and have served continuously from the date of appointment to the date you reach age 70.

Taking a Reduced Retirement Benefit

You are eligible for retirement with a reduced benefit when you reach age 55 and are vested. If you take reduced retirement, your full retirement benefit is permanently reduced. This is to account for the probability that you will be receiving your pension benefit for a longer period of time. Your benefit will increase only if the Legislature grants cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs).

PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

Previous Employment with a WRS Employer

If you return to work for a participating employer, after having previously left employment covered in this plan, and you did not take a refund when you left employment, your pension benefit will begin accruing where you left off. If you took a refund of your contributions, you have the opportunity to regain that service through a redeposit.

Redeposits

A redeposit re-establishes service credit forfeited by a member who previously terminated employment and took the refund. You have ten years from the date of re-employment with a participating employer in the plan to make a redeposit. You may make a redeposit immediately upon returning to work for a participating employer. However, a two year waiting period from the date of re-employment is required before receiving service credit for the redeposit. If you were to leave employment before the two year waiting period expired, you would be refunded the amount of your redeposit, plus interest, and would not receive the associated service credit.

The redeposit must be made in a lump sum, which includes the original amount refunded plus accrued interest from the date of the refund. You are allowed to make the redeposit with a non-taxable rollover from assets you have in another qualified retirement vehicle, such as a 401(a), 401(k), 403(b), 457, or a traditional IRA.

Contact WRS to obtain more specific information so you may decide if you want to pursue a redeposit.

Retirement Accounts with Non-WRS Employers

The Judicial Pension Plan is not able to let you transfer a pension benefit earned from another employer. However, you may use money from another retirement account for a service purchase.

You may also be able to roll the money into the WRS Deferred Compensation 457 Plan. The 457 Plan can accept rollovers from pre-tax contributions that were made to a 401(k), 403(b), qualified 401(a), or a traditional IRA. The 457 Plan can also accept rollover money from after-tax contributions that were made to 401(k) Roth or 403(b) Roth account, but cannot accept rollovers from Roth IRAs. If you have pre-tax or after-tax balances in another 457 plan, you may transfer those assets to the 457 Plan.

LEAVING EMPLOYMENT BEFORE RETIREMENT AGE

Options When Leaving Employment

If you stop working for a participating employer and have an account balance of at least \$1,000, you may leave your account with WRS. Only if you are vested will your account balance continue to accrue interest at the rate set by the WRS Board. If you are vested, you can later apply for a lifetime benefit when you are at retirement age.

If you leave your account with WRS and later return to work for an employer who participates in the Judicial Pension Plan, you and your employer would resume making contributions, and you would start to earn service credit again.

Another choice available if you stop working for a WRS participating employer is to withdraw or “refund” your account balance or roll it over to an eligible retirement account. A refund does not include the employer share of contributions that remain in the plan to reduce future employer costs. A refund decision should be made carefully, as it is usually hard to recover the lost retirement security caused by premature withdrawals of retirement assets.

If you are not vested and hired on or after July 1, 2018, and elect to take a refund upon termination, the refundable amount will be employee contributions made by you together with interest on those contributions. Any of the employee contributions picked up by your employer will not be included in your refund. If your employer pays the full contribution, there would not be a refundable amount. In most cases, the contributions would remain on deposit for your credit should you return to service with a WRS participating employer.

A refund is irreversible unless you become eligible for a redeposit. If you are vested, WRS is required to provide you with an estimate of the monthly benefit you will be giving up should you take a refund or rollover.

If your account balance is less than \$1,000, you will be required to take a refund of your account or roll it over to another qualified plan. If your account balance is less than \$1,000, and you do not take a refund after a three-year period, your account may be absorbed into the system. Only if you are re-employed with a participating employer will the contributions and interest be reinstated to your account and your service credit restored.

DEATH CLAIMS & BENEFICIARIES

At employment, you must log in to your online pension account to designate a beneficiary who will receive the benefits associated with your account in the event of your death. You must make separate beneficiary designations for the pension, 457 Plan, and Prudential Life Insurance. Not having a beneficiary on file could be a disadvantage to your family and loved ones.

If You Die Before Retirement

If you were to die before retirement, whether or not you are vested in the plan makes a difference in the choices your beneficiary(ies) would have.

Not Vested: If you are not vested (have less than 48 months of service) in the plan and die before retirement, your beneficiary is entitled to receive a lump sum payment equal to twice your account balance at the time of your death. If you were hired on or after July 1, 2019, and are not actively employed, your account balance will not be doubled.

Vested: If you are vested (have at least 48 months of service) and die before retirement, your beneficiary is entitled to receive either a lump sum death benefit or a lifetime monthly benefit (if you have designated a person to be your single primary beneficiary). The lifetime benefit would be based on your beneficiary's age along with your service and salary history.

In order to receive a lifetime benefit, a spousal beneficiary must be of retirement age. Spousal beneficiaries must begin taking a benefit by the time the member would have reached 72 years of age.

For a non-spousal beneficiary to elect a lifetime benefit rather than a lump sum, the beneficiary must be at retirement age to begin the benefit within one year of the date of your death. Otherwise, the non-spousal beneficiary would only be eligible for the lump sum death benefit. Lump sum payouts to non-spousal beneficiaries or estates taking a lump sum payout must be distributed within five years of the date of death.

If you have designated multiple individuals as primary beneficiaries, monthly retirement benefits are not an option. In these cases, lump sum payments will be made to the beneficiaries in equal shares, unless otherwise specified in writing to WRS prior to your death. Monthly retirement benefits are not an option if you have designated an entity, such as a trust or charity, as your beneficiary.

You are responsible for keeping your beneficiary designation current. You may change your designation through your online account at any time, but spousal consent is required. Questions regarding the designation of a beneficiary or beneficiaries should be directed to WRS.

Death After Retirement

After you retire, should you precede your beneficiary in death, your beneficiary will receive a benefit equal to fifty percent of your benefit until his or her death.

APPLYING FOR RETIREMENT

Choosing a Retirement Date

Your retirement date is something only you can decide. Remember, your benefit will increase with every month of service you complete. If you want to retire as soon as you are eligible, consider your birthday since you will need to meet eligibility requirements for a retirement with no reduction in benefit.

If you are vested, view an estimate of your retirement benefit by logging into your online pension account.

Applying for Retirement

Log in to your online pension account to apply for benefits on or shortly before your last working day. If you apply online and your last working day changes, you will have to cancel and redo the online application. You may also download a paper application for retirement and submit it to WRS.

Be sure to get all the benefit counseling you want from WRS well in advance, so you will be able to make the decisions required by the retirement application.

Benefit Payout

Your benefit payout is an annuity that ensures lifetime retirement income. Should you precede your beneficiary in death, your beneficiary will receive a benefit equal to fifty percent of your benefit until his or her death.

RETIREMENT PAYMENTS

Timing of Your First Retirement Payment

You may expect your first payment from WRS the month following the month WRS receives final contributions and a termination notice from your employer. Your first payment will be retroactive back to your retirement date.

If you talk with your employer, find out when they will be submitting the final contributions and termination notice pertaining to you. Once you know when WRS will get notice of termination and your final contribution, you can estimate that your first check will likely be on the retiree payroll date for the month after WRS received your information.

Direct Deposit

You will be asked to provide direct deposit information when completing your retirement application. All benefit payments are deposited directly to your financial institution on the last business day of each month. Each payment represents your retirement benefit for the preceding month. WRS strongly suggests the use of direct deposit.

Income Taxes

Your monthly benefit is reported to the IRS as income, and you are responsible for paying any taxes. You will receive a Form 1099-R annually for tax reporting purposes. If you made contributions to your pension after-tax, such as with a service purchase, the non-taxable portion of your pension paid throughout the year will be reported on your 1099-R form. You will complete an Income Tax Withholding form when you apply for retirement to indicate how much income tax you want withheld.

State and Federal Withholdings

WRS can now withhold state and federal taxes based upon your request. WRS staff cannot furnish tax advice. You may want to consult with a tax accountant or the IRS about withholding elections.

Health Insurance Premium Withholding

WRS can withhold retiree health insurance premiums from your monthly retirement check and forward the money to the appropriate entity. You arrange this through your employer when you terminate your employment. Your employer should then submit necessary information to WRS.

Benefit Increases After Retirement

The decision to grant any cost of living adjustment (COLA) or benefit enhancement is made by the Wyoming Legislature. Before a COLA could be granted, statute requires actuarial projections to demonstrate the plan would remain above 100 percent funded after any COLA is awarded.

(Benefits provided under the pension plans administered by the Wyoming Retirement System represent one aspect of your retirement assets and should not be expected to replace one hundred percent (100%) of your pre-retirement income. Cost-of-living and other benefit increases are not incorporated into your benefit, emphasizing the importance for you to build additional resources for retirement income, such as personal savings. Additionally, pursuant to Wyo. Stat. 9-3-428, although you have a nonforfeitable interest in your accrued and funded benefits, the state of Wyoming is statutorily obligated only for the contributions required by the Wyoming Retirement Act.)

RETURNING TO WORK AFTER RETIREMENT

Generally, a retired member who returns to work for a participating employer in a position covered by the same plan in which they are retired must have his or her retirement benefit canceled and be re-enrolled into the plan to resume earning service credit.

If you are retired or intending to retire and are considering re-employment with a participating employer, you must contact WRS at (307) 777-1977 for assistance.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Your Pension and Social Security

At this time, all members of the Judicial Pension Plan are required to pay into Social Security. The Social Security coverage available to you will include your service under your WRS participating employer and will not be reduced according to the Windfall Elimination Provision or the Government Pension Offset. The WEP and GPO would apply to pensions received from governmental employment during which you did not pay Social Security taxes. For complete information on your Social Security benefit, contact Social Security at www.ssa.gov.

After you retire, your pension benefit payment is not subject to Social Security or Medicare withholding.

DISABILITY

If you become incapacitated to the point you cannot perform your duties, you may be eligible for a disability retirement. A “total disability” means a condition rendering you unable to engage in any occupation for which you are reasonably suited by training or experience and which is expected to last at least 12 months. A “partial disability” means a condition rendering you unable to fulfill the occupation for which you are reasonably suited by training or experience, which is expected to last at least 12 months but still allows you to function in other employment. Contact WRS for more information about applying for a disability retirement benefit.

Disability Retirement Eligibility

To qualify for a disability retirement, you must have become disabled and apply for disability:

- While you are a contributing member of the Wyoming Retirement System and
- Before you are age 60 and
- After you have 10 or more years of service

Disability Benefit Application

You can obtain the application for a disability benefit from WRS. The physicians who recently examined you must verify the disabling condition. An external company makes a recommendation after reviewing your medical records. Please note that if you terminate employment prior to submitting a disability benefit application, you will no longer be eligible for a disability retirement. In the event of a contested decision, there are appeal procedures available to you.

Workers' Compensation

In most cases, WRS cannot consider payment from workers' compensation as part of your salary. Being on workers' compensation may have an effect on your highest average salary and your months of service, which are used to determine your pension benefit. If this applies to you, please contact WRS at (307) 777-1977 for more information.

OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST

Military Deployment

Should you be called for active military service, WRS rules allow you to receive service credit for missed contributions upon your return as long as certain requirements are met:

- » You must return to work with an employer participating in WRS within 90 days of being honorably discharged. Your employer must provide WRS with written notice of your re-employment within 30 days of your re-employment.
- » You must pay contributions on the service missed, and your employer will be required to pay the employer contributions. There may be funds available from the Adjutant General's office to help pay the employee and employer portion of the contribution for first responders. Any employee and employer contributions must be paid within five years of your re-employment.

If military service credit applies to you, call WRS at (307) 777-7691 to arrange for the makeup of missed retirement contributions. You will need to provide a DD-214 form verifying an honorable discharge and dates of deployment.

Divorce

WRS has formal rules regarding divorce settlements. WRS requires a Qualified Domestic Relations Order (QDRO) signed by a judge to split your retirement benefit between you and your former spouse. If your former spouse is awarded a percentage of your benefit, your monthly retirement benefit will be reduced for your lifetime, even if your former spouse elects to be paid in a lump sum.

If you divorce after you have already started your retirement benefit, your named beneficiary cannot be changed. Your original beneficiary will receive the benefit.

A separate QDRO is required to split your 457 Plan account for a divorce settlement. Sample QDRO language for the pension and 457 Plan, as well as additional explanatory materials, are available at retirement.wyo.gov.

Life Insurance

WRS offers a life insurance plan you may currently purchase for \$16 a month prior to retirement. Prudential is the underwriter for the plan, and WRS is able to offer it to you through its membership with the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS). The plan is commonly known as Prudential Life Insurance. An insurance agency called Member Benefits administers the Prudential Life Insurance program and refers to it as NCPERS Life Insurance. You may receive correspondence from Member Benefits. If you need to make any changes to your beneficiary or address information, contact Member Benefits at (800) 525-8056.

WRS Oversight

WRS is administered by an 11-member Board, which includes the state treasurer, two public employees, two employees representing the public school system or higher education, one retired member of WRS, and five qualified Wyoming electors not employed by any participating employer of WRS. All Board members, with the exception of the state treasurer, are appointed by the governor for terms of six years. Board members are legally required to act in the best interest of the members of WRS.

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Dispute Resolution

You are entitled to a hearing with the WRS Board regarding any dispute, and the Wyoming Administrative Procedures Act (available from the Secretary of State's office) will be followed.

WRS Financial Information

WRS undergoes an audit for each fiscal year ending Dec. 31, and resulting reports are available on our website. All administrative expenses are paid for from WRS investment earnings or participant fees.

Statutes, rules, modifications to this handbook, and financial and actuarial reports are available at the address below for Plan Administrator and Service of Process:

Wyoming Retirement System

Executive Director
2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 450
Cheyenne, WY 82002

JUDICIAL PENSION BENEFIT TABLE

Your pension benefit is calculated using a “multiplier” for each year of service. WRS also has online calculators you can use to approximate your benefit.

Years of Service	Salary Replacement Ratio
4	16%
5	20%
6	23%
7	26%
8	29%
9	32%
10	35%
11	38%
12	41%
13	44%
14	47%
15	50%
20	60%
25	65%
30	70%
Ceiling	None

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For a complete picture of your retirement benefits and how they work together, visit WRS' website where a variety of additional resources are available.

WRS' retirement educators are available to help you learn about benefits, investing for retirement, and retirement planning. To find out when WRS educators will be conducting seminars in your area, visit retirement.wyo.gov to view the educator travel schedule.

Wyoming Retirement System

Vision

Partnering to build financial security for members and their families.

Mission

Provide expert administration and responsible investment of Wyoming's public retirement and supplemental savings program.

Values

Integrity, accountability, commitment, excellence.

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