## PFRS ENROLLMENT BY MEMBERSHIP TIER PENSIONABLE SALARY LIMITS

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The PFRS contribution rate for Tier 1 members is applied to the full pensionable salary up to the federal pensionable maximum.*

The PFRS contribution rate for Tier 2 members is applied to the pensionable salary up to a compensation limit based on the annual maximum wage for Social Security deductions ($137,700 for 2020). Tier 2 members who earn in excess of the annual compensation limit will be enrolled in the Defined Contribution Retirement Program (DCRP) in addition to the PFRS. A contribution of 5.5 percent of the salary in excess of the limit (plus three percent from the employer) is forwarded to a DCRP account.

The PFRS contribution rate for Tier 3 members is applied to the pensionable salary up to a compensation limit based on the annual maximum wage for Social Security deductions ($137,700 for 2020). Tier 3 members who earn in excess of the annual compensation limit will be enrolled in the DCRP in addition to the PFRS. A contribution of 5.5 percent of the salary in excess of the limit (plus three percent from the employer) is forwarded to a DCRP account.

*Since the PFRS is a qualified pension plan under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, Section 401(a)(17), the current federal ceiling on pensionable compensation ($285,000 for 2020) applies to the base salaries of PFRS members.

**Tier 2 pursuant to P.L. 2010, c. 1  Tier 3 pursuant to P.L. 2011, c. 78**
## PFRS Retirement Benefits by Membership Tier

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**Service Retirement**

Service Retirement eligibility requirements fall into two categories:

- A member in service and age 55 or older may retire without any required minimum years of service.
- A member with at least 20 years of service may retire at any age provided the member was enrolled in the PFRS as of January 18, 2000.

The Tier 1 calculations for a Service Retirement are:

- Less than 20 years of service credit: the Annual Benefit equals two percent of Final Compensation for each year of service.
- At least 20 years but less than 25 years of service credit: the Annual Benefit equals 50 percent of Final Compensation.
- If age 65 (mandatory retirement age) with 20 or more years of service credit: the Annual Benefit equals 50 percent of Final Compensation, plus three percent of Final Compensation for each year of service over 20, up to 25 years, if enrolled in the PFRS as of January 18, 2000.
- At least 30 years of service credit: the Annual Benefit equals two percent per year of average Final Compensation for the first 30 years of service, plus an additional one percent of average Final Compensation for each year of service credit over 30 years.

Service Retirement eligibility for Tier 2 members is:

- A member in service and age 55 or older may retire without any required minimum years of service.

The Tier 2 calculations for a Service Retirement are:

- Less than 20 years of service credit: the Annual Benefit equals two percent of Final Compensation for each year of service.
- At least 20 years but less than 25 years of service credit: the Annual Benefit equals 50 percent of your Final Compensation.
- At least 30 years of service credit: the Annual Benefit equals two percent per year of average Final Compensation for the first 30 years of service, plus an additional one percent of average Final Compensation for each year of service credit over 30 years.

Service Retirement eligibility for Tier 3 members is:

- A member in service and age 55 or older may retire without any required minimum years of service.

The Tier 3 calculations for a Service Retirement are:

- Less than 20 years of service credit: the Annual Benefit equals two percent of Final Compensation for each year of service.
- At least 20 years but less than 25 years of service credit: the Annual Benefit equals 50 percent of your Final Compensation.
- At least 30 years of service credit: the Annual Benefit equals two percent per year of average Final Compensation for the first 30 years of service, plus an additional one percent of average Final Compensation for each year of service credit over 30 years.

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**Tier 1** — Final Compensation means the salary upon which pension contributions were based in the last 12 months of creditable service preceding retirement.

**Tier 2 and Tier 3** — Final Compensation means the average salary upon which pension contributions were based for any three fiscal years of membership preceding retirement that provides the largest possible benefit possible.

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<tr>
<td>Available to members who have at least 10 years of service credit and are not yet 55 years of age when they terminate employment.</td>
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<td>The Deferred Retirement is effective on the first of the month after attaining age 55.</td>
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<td>The Annual Benefit for a Deferred Retirement equals two percent of Final Compensation for each year of service.</td>
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<td>Available to Tier 1 members at any age who have at least 25 years of service credit in the PFRS.</td>
<td>Available to Tier 2 members at any age who have at least 25 years of service credit in PFRS.</td>
<td>Available to Tier 3 members of any age who have at least 25 years of service credit in the PFRS.</td>
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<td>The Tier 1 Annual Benefit for a Special Retirement equals 65 percent of Final Compensation plus one percent for each year of creditable service over 25 years but not to exceed 30 years.</td>
<td>The Tier 2 Annual Benefit for a Special Retirement equals 65 percent of Final Compensation plus one percent for each year of creditable service over 25 years but not to exceed 30 years.</td>
<td>The Tier 3 Annual Benefit for a Special Retirement equals 60 percent of Final Compensation plus one percent for each year of creditable service over 25 years but not to exceed 30 years.</td>
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<td>The maximum allowance is 70 percent of Final Compensation.</td>
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| **ORDINARY DISABILITY RETIREMENT** | Upon Board approval, the Annual Benefit is equal to 40 percent of your Final Compensation or 1.5 percent of Final Compensation for each year of service credit, whichever is higher. | Upon Board approval, the Annual Benefit is equal to 40 percent of your Final Compensation or 1.5 percent of Final Compensation for each year of service credit, whichever is higher. | Upon Board approval, the Annual Benefit is equal to 40 percent of your Final Compensation or 1.5 percent of Final Compensation for each year of service credit, whichever is higher. |

| **IN VOLUNTARY ORDINARY DISABILITY RETIREMENT** | The employer has the right to apply for an Involuntary Ordinary Disability Retirement on an employee’s behalf provided that all qualifications for Ordinary Disability Retirement are met. | The employer has the right to apply for an Involuntary Ordinary Disability Retirement on an employee’s behalf provided that all qualifications for Ordinary Disability Retirement are met. | The employer has the right to apply for an Involuntary Ordinary Disability Retirement on an employee’s behalf provided that all qualifications for Ordinary Disability Retirement are met. |

- Upon Board approval of an application by the employer — and with at least four years of PFRS service, but less than 20 years — the Ordinary Disability Retirement is 40 percent of Final Compensation, or 1.5 percent of Final Compensation for each year of PFRS service, whichever is higher.
- Upon Board approval of an application by the employer — and with 20 or more years of service — the Ordinary Disability Retirement is 50 percent of Final Compensation, plus an additional three percent of Final Compensation for every year of PFRS service over 20 up to a maximum of 25 years.
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*The employer must file a Resolution and/or an Official Letter with all Involuntary Disability Retirement applications. See the PFRS Member Handbook for details.*

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**SPECIAL DISABILITY RETIREMENT**

To qualify for a Special Disability Retirement you must:
- Be a PFRS member in service at the time the application is filed with the NJDPB (an official leave of absence is considered in service);
- Be under 55 years of age;
- Have five or more years of New Jersey service credit; and
- Receive a heart transplant.

The annual benefit calculation is equal to 50 percent of Final Compensation.

**ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY RETIREMENT**

The annual benefit is equal to 2/3 of the Annual Compensation on which pension contributions were being made at the time of retirement or the date of the traumatic event, whichever provides the higher benefit.

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