

## ***Reinstatement of Pension Credits***

The date a member first became a participant with an eligible Illinois retirement system determines eligibility for benefits and vesting requirements covered under the Illinois Retirement Systems Reciprocal Act. *It is important that you notify your current system if you have participated in another Illinois retirement system or if you had previous service but took a refund.*

It may be necessary to reinstate service credit by repaying the refund when considering eligibility. A member may reinstate pension credit by repaying the refund after completing two years in any reciprocal system. The repayment may be made at any time, as long as the member qualifies and repays the refund before retirement.

## ***Reentry Into Service***

If an annuitant reenters service in a system that is paying a pension, all systems will suspend their pension payment if the employing system requires it. The pension is reinstated when employment ends. Recomputation of pension benefits for additional service is based on the laws of each system.

## ***Pension Estimates***

To receive an estimate of pension benefits, submit a request to the last system where you were employed. Inform them of the other systems you have service credit with and your estimated retirement date.

## ***Systems Covered Under the Reciprocal Act***

### ***Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund***

203 North LaSalle, Suite 2600  
Chicago, IL 60601-1210  
312-641-4464  
Fax 312-641-7185

### ***County Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Cook County***

33 North Dearborn Street  
Suite 1000  
Chicago, IL 60602-3103  
312-603-1200  
Fax 312-603-9760

### ***Forest Preserve District Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Cook County***

33 North Dearborn Street  
Suite 1000  
Chicago, IL 60602-3103  
312-603-1200  
Fax 312-603-9760

### ***Judges' & General Assembly Retirement Systems***

2101 South Veterans Parkway  
P. O. Box 19255  
Springfield, IL 62794-9255  
217-782-8500  
Fax 217-557-5154

### ***Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund***

2211 York Road, Suite 500  
Oak Brook, IL 60523-2337  
630-368-1010  
Fax 630-368-5399

### ***Laborers' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago***

321 North Clark, Suite 1300  
Chicago, IL 60654-4739  
312-236-2065  
Fax 312-236-0574

### ***Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Retirement Fund***

111 East Erie, Suite 330  
Chicago, IL 60611-2898  
312-751-3222  
Fax 312-751-5699

### ***Municipal Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago***

321 North Clark, Suite 700  
Chicago, IL 60654-4767  
312-236-4700  
Fax 312-527-0192

### ***Park Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago***

55 East Monroe, Suite 2720  
Chicago, IL 60603  
312-553-9265  
Fax 312-553-9114

### ***State Employees' Retirement System of Illinois***

2101 South Veterans Parkway  
P. O. Box 19255  
Springfield, IL 62794-9255  
217-785-7444  
Fax 217-524-2293  
**Chicago Office:** 312-814-5853  
Fax 312-814-5805

### ***Teachers' Retirement System***

2815 West Washington Street  
P. O. Box 19253  
Springfield, IL 62794-9253  
800-877-7896 or 217-753-0311  
Fax 217-753-0394

### ***State Universities Retirement System***

1901 Fox Drive  
P. O. Box 2710  
Champaign, IL 61825-2710  
800-275-7877  
Fax 217-378-9800



# ***RETIREMENT SYSTEMS RECIPROCAL — ACT —***

***Published by  
the Retirement Systems  
Reciprocal Conference***

# ***2015***

*Printed on Recycled Paper*

Printed by the Authority  
of the State of Illinois  
20M 1/15



*The Reciprocal Act ensures continuous pension credit for public employment in Illinois. Pension credits of more than one year in any reciprocal system may be used to meet qualifications for retirement or survivor benefits. The Illinois Reciprocal Systems have published this brochure to provide members with uniform information about the Reciprocal Act.*

### System Reciprocity

The Reciprocal Act does not override or change any provisions of the individual systems. Specific requirements for each system must be met before reciprocity can be applied.

The use of reciprocity is optional. A member with reciprocal time may retire independently under each system. If a member elects to use the provisions of the Reciprocal Act, the systems will exchange information regarding service credits, earnings, and other pertinent data to determine benefits payable.

### Pension Credit Requirements

A member establishes pension credits by participating in one of the reciprocal systems. Credit established in all systems shall be considered under the Reciprocal Act except the following:

1. Credit of less than one year in any system (*unless earned with IMRF as a teacher aide*).
2. Credits that have been forfeited by accepting a refund, unless reinstated.
3. Credits that have been applied toward a retirement pension.

For a system to pay benefits under reciprocity, a member's combined service credits must meet each system's service credit

requirements. For example, if a system requires ten years of service credit and a member has combined reciprocal service of eight years, the system would not pay benefits.

If a member has been granted service credit by more than one system for the same period of time, each system will reduce the credit proportionately if benefits are paid under reciprocity.

### Applying for Benefits

A member applying for benefits under the Reciprocal Act should:

1. Request an application from each employing system at least 60 days before their planned retirement date.
2. Return the completed application forms to each system and ask them to apply the reciprocity provisions.

### Reciprocity Benefits

The maximum combined benefit payable under reciprocity is the highest monthly benefit payable if all service credit had been established in one system.

Each system pays its benefit directly to the annuitant. Annual increases in pension benefits are made in accordance with each system's statutes.

### Computation of Benefits

To determine a member's pension amount, each system looks at *combined* service credits and earnings, and pays their share of the pension accordingly. *The following examples illustrate the advantage of reciprocity.*

#### Example #1

A member participated in System A for seven years and in System B for four years. The final average earnings in System A were \$1,600 per month and \$2,000 per month in System B.

System A and B both use a flat rate formula of 2.2% per year, and final average earnings based on the highest 48 consecutive months of earnings.

The eligibility requirements for a pension in each system are:

**System A:** Age 60 with eight years of service.

**System B:** Age 60 with ten years of service.

*Without reciprocity the member does not have sufficient service credit in either system to receive a pension.* However, under reciprocity the member's combined service credit equals 11 years, which qualifies the member for a proportional pension from each system.

The highest final average earnings, \$2,000 per month, is also used by both systems in computing their proportional shares. Computation of final average salary and service credit is based on the laws of each system.

Each system bases its proportional share on the service credits established in its system, and pays a combined total pension of \$484 per month.

#### Example #2

A member has established 12 years of service with System A and 20 years of service with System B. The final average earnings were \$1,600 per month in System A and \$2,400 per month in System B. Both systems require eight years of service credit for pension qualification.

System A has a flat rate formula of 1.67% for each year of service. System B has a step rate formula of 1.67% for each year of the first 15 years and 2% for each year over 15. Without reciprocity, the pensions from both systems would result in a combined benefit of \$1,161.84 per month.

However, if a member chooses reciprocity, the pension from the two systems would be based on the highest final average earnings, \$2,400 per month, and the benefit would be computed on the following combined service.

**System A:** 12 years x 1.67% = 20.04%  
20.04% x \$2,400 = \$480.96 per month

**System B:** 3 years x 1.67% = 5.01%  
17 years x 2.0% = 34.00%  

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39.01%

39.01% x \$2,400 = \$936.24 per month

The total pension from both systems would be \$1,417.20 per month. *The pensions paid by each system using reciprocity are greater than the pensions that would be paid by each system separately.*