



SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF OHIO

Employer Bulletin

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Reminder: New Requirement for Member Enrollments

On April 14, 2023, it will be required to provide a **personal email address** while enrolling a new member (upload and manual entry). If a personal email address is not provided, the enrollment file or manual entry will be in review status and will not be posted until the personal email address is provided.

While not required, if a cell phone number is not provided in the enrollment file or manual enrollment entry, it will be in review status with the option to suppress the warning.

This update to Member Enrollments will be used for member portal registration and will allow SERS to effectively communicate with members electronically.

Additional details will become available as we move closer to the implementation.

eSERS Upgrade

This summer eSERS will get a face lift.

Testing for the upgraded platform will begin in April. Once all testing has been approved, the final product will be launched to our members and employers July 2023.

The visual appearance and registration process for new web users will be the only items changing in eSERS. The processes for enrolling members, submitting contribution reporting, and making payments and wage certifications, will remain the same.

Employer Outreach will communicate updates through the eSERS Hotline as the launch date approaches.

Contribution Based Benefit Cap (CBBC)

In October 2021, the Board authorized staff to pursue legislation allowing SERS to implement a pension benefit inflation control measure called the Contribution Based Benefit Cap (CBBC).

It will ensure that pension payouts are supported by the member's career contribution history and not artificially inflated by an unusual spike in reported salary.

Future implementation will not affect anyone who retired before the legislation becomes effective.

Pension benefit inflation occurs when the highest three years of a member's salary history, which are used to calculate the member's pension, are considerably higher than the rest of the member's working career. This results in a pension that is significantly higher than what is supported by the member's career contributions.

In most cases, a member's career contribution history adequately funds the member's retirement, but in cases when pension benefit inflation occurs, the pension system must subsidize the pensions. This harms the pension fund and is unfair to members whose career salary and contributions followed a normal trajectory.

The CBBC compares a member's formula pension to the member's capped benefit. The capped benefit is calculated by multiplying an annuity based on the member's contributions by the formula factor approved by the Retirement Board.

The member's pension will be the lower of the member's formula pension or capped benefit.

We will keep you informed of any legislative progress.

Upcoming Employer Training

[Sign up](#) for one or more virtual trainings that will be offered this spring:

Date	Type of Training	Description
March 8	Employer Education Series	SERS-Covered Membership and Enrollment
March 15	Sound Bite Wednesday	ACH Debit
March 28	eSERS Demo	A two-hour webinar that covers all aspects of eSERS from File Uploads to Wage Certifications
April 5	Sound Bite	Salary Estimates and Foundation Letters <i>(Foundation-participating districts only)</i>

Additionally, Employer Outreach is always available for a virtual or in-person one-on-one visit to address any immediate training needs.

Summer Workshops

Employer Outreach will be hitting the road again this summer for the annual **Employer 101 Workshops**. We listened to you and spread out our training so that it would not coincide with a payroll week.

Employer Outreach will email registration links as we get closer to the dates.

June 6

Akron
Sheraton Suites

June 15

Findlay
Hilton Garden Inn

June 21

Cambridge
Salt Fork Lodge

July 12

Dayton/Beavercreek
Hilton Garden Inn

July 26

Dublin
OCLC Conference Center

The Employer 101 Workshop covers all employer roles and responsibilities. Topics include membership, compensation, reporting and payment, and member benefits. Please note, this is not an eSERS training.

Reminder: Membership and Compensation Determinations

When there is a question regarding SERS membership or SERS-covered compensation, it is important to call Employer Services at 1-877-213-0861. Employer Services can guide you through the determination process.

A membership determination requires a copy of the job description and/or contract. If you are working with a contractor or contract company, a [Membership Determination Form](#) also may need to be completed.

For a compensation determination, Employer Services will need to see all documentation pertaining to the payment, including contracts or board meeting minutes.

Employer Resources

On the Employer site, you are able to view previously recorded eSERS Demos, Employer Education webinars, and Sound Bites. You also are able to download guides, *Employer Fact Sheets*, and *eSERS How-Tos*.

[Access Employer Resources](#)