



JOINT MEMBERSHIP: Common Positions for SERS and STRS

Membership

SERS’ members are individuals who work for a public or community school or school system in a non-teaching position. They range from treasurers and business administrators, including business managers, to bus drivers, custodians, administrative assistants, food service providers, and educational aides.

Employees who are not required to have a registration, certificate, or license covered under Sections 3319.22 – 3319.31 of the Ohio Revised Code and issued by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) are SERS’ members.

This also includes employees of contract companies who perform a service common to the normal daily operation of a school.

MEMBERSHIP BREAKDOWN

Paragraphs (B)(1), (B)(2), and (B)(3) of section 3309.01 (B) describe three separate definitions of “employee” for SERS-covered members.

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| <p>Paragraph (B)(1) “Common law” employee</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Any person “employed by a public employer” in a non-teaching position that does not require a registration, certificate, or license under Ohio law ▪ Refers to an employee-employer relationship, also called a “common law” employee-employer relationship ▪ Applies when the district contracts directly with an individual for services |
| <p>Paragraph (B)(2) Statutory employee</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If the person performs a “service common to the normal daily operation” of a school even though the person is employed and paid by one who has contracted with an employer to perform the service ▪ Applies when a school contracts with a contractor for the provision of services by the employees of the contractor |
| <p>Paragraph (B)(3) Post secondary school employees</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employees employed in a non-faculty position in a school, college, or other institution - wholly controlled and managed - and wholly or partly supported by the state or any political subdivision |

If the overall facts of the situation indicate an employer-employee relationship between you and the employee, membership in SERS is required.

COMMON POSITIONS OF INTEREST BETWEEN SERS AND STRS

| Position | Retirement System Determination |
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| Coaches and athletic directors | <p>Does the individual hold a valid teaching license?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yes — STRS Ohio membership ▪ No — SERS membership |
| Nurses | <p>Does the individual hold an Ohio Department of Education (ODE) school nurse license or is the individual a registered nurse (RN) with a bachelor's degree?*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yes — STRS Ohio membership ▪ No — SERS membership <p><small>*Effective May 14, 2021, for new hires. Existing RNs with a bachelor's degree should contribute to STRS Ohio as of July 1, 2021.</small></p> |
| Speech-language pathologists and audiologists | <p>Did your school receive an exception from ODE under Section 3319.224 of the Revised Code?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No — STRS Ohio membership ▪ Yes — SERS membership |
| Pupil services | <p>The following positions are always STRS Ohio-covered positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Occupational therapists and assistants ▪ Physical therapists and assistants ▪ Interpreters for the hearing impaired ▪ Orientation and mobility specialists ▪ Social workers |
| Preschool teachers and directors | <p>Is it a special education preschool program?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Directors—STRS Ohio ▪ Head teachers—STRS Ohio ▪ Itinerant teachers—STRS Ohio ▪ Secondary classroom teachers or aides—SERS <p>Is it a regular or typical preschool program?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Directors—STRS Ohio ▪ Head teachers*—SERS ▪ Itinerant teachers—STRS Ohio ▪ Secondary classroom teachers or aides—SERS <p><small>*ODE does not require that head preschool teachers in regular preschools have a professional educator license. This ODE licensing requirement is the determining factor for retirement system membership for a preschool teacher, regardless of the license held by an individual or what the school district may require.</small></p> |

OTHER COMMON POSITIONS



- Full-time and part-time teachers
- Adult education instructors
- Substitute teachers
- Tutors
- County board of developmental disabilities teachers
- Superintendents
- Psychologists
- Guidance counselors
- Auxiliary service personnel (In positions that require registration, certificate, or licensure under Sections 3319.22 to 3319.31, Revised Code)



- Teachers' aides/Paraprofessionals
- Bus drivers
- Food service personnel
- Custodial or maintenance personnel
- Technology coordinators
- Treasurers
- Business managers
- Secretarial or clerical personnel
- Preschool teachers
- Latchkey employees
- Early childhood instructors
- Ticket takers
- Security officers
- Auxiliary services personnel (In positions that do not require registration, certificate, or licensure under Sections 3319.22 to 3319.31, Revised Code)