



RETIREE eFOCUS

SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF OHIO

October 2026

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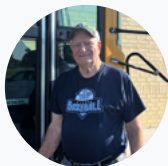
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Retiree Profile
Dale Busch

Payment Schedule

Your payment is deposited into your bank account on the first business day of each month. If the first day of the month falls on a weekend or holiday, your payment will be deposited on the previous business day.

Due to tax laws, your January payment will be deposited on January 4, 2027, the first business day of the new year.

Payment Stubs

You receive your payment stub twice a year. It details your gross monthly allowance and deductions, and these amounts for year-to-date. You also receive a payment stub whenever there is a change in your benefit, including a change in your COLA, tax withholdings, or healthcare premiums.

You will receive your next payment stub in January 2027 with the winter issue of your *Retiree Focus*.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

October	October 1, 2026
November	October 30, 2026
December	December 1, 2026
January	January 4, 2027
February	February 1, 2027



COLA Approved for 2027

At its September Board Meeting, the SERS Board voted to approve a 2.5% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increase for eligible benefit recipients in 2027.

By statute, SERS' COLA is based on the year-to-year change in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners (CPI-W), with a floor of 0% and a cap of 2.5%. According to SERS' actuary CavMac, the 2.5% COLA amount will not materially impair SERS' funded status.

The 2027 COLA takes effect on the benefit anniversary of the recipient's effective date of retirement. Benefit recipients whose benefit effective date is on or after April 1, 2018, must wait until the fourth anniversary of their allowance or benefit before receiving a COLA.

SERS' Healthcare Coverage Changes for 2027



Aetna Medicare Plan (PPO)

Aetna Medicare Plan (PPO) monthly premiums and plan benefits will remain the same for 2027.

Aetna Medicare plan enrollees did not receive an Open Enrollment mailing from SERS this year, but Aetna and Express Scripts did mail their annual plan documents.

Aetna Choice POS II and AultCare PPO

The Aetna Choice POS II and

AultCare PPO plans will have premium increases for 2027, with plan benefits remaining unchanged.

Marketplace Wraparound HRA

Marketplace Wraparound HRA enrollees are notified by their Marketplace plan of any 2027 premium and plan changes.

The Marketplace Wraparound HRA maximum reimbursement amount will increase to \$2,250 in 2027.

Non-Medicare Plan Changes

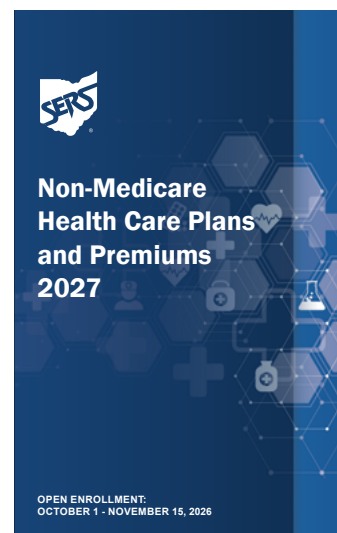
Non-Medicare plan enrollees can change their enrollment during open enrollment by switching to the Marketplace Wraparound HRA from the Aetna Choice POS II or AultCare PPO plans or vice versa.

Mailings

Retirees enrolled in SERS' Aetna Choice POS II, AultCare PPO, and the Marketplace Wraparound HRA were sent mailings in September.

Dental and Vision

No enrollment changes are allowed this year to SERS' Delta Dental and VSP Vision coverage. The 2026-2027 enrollment period for dental and vision plans ends December 31, 2027, regardless of your effective date of coverage.



The Value of SERS Benefits

You receive your SERS pension every month. Your SERS pension is a defined benefit (DB) plan. It's a paycheck for the rest of your life.



You are Lucky

Many employers have switched to offering defined contribution (DC) plans, such as a 401(k), because they are cheaper to operate. With a DC plan, the employer has no ongoing obligation to an employee. If the employee lives longer than expected, a 401(K) can run dry. Once it's gone, it's gone.

Not so with a DB plan. Your SERS pension never runs out.

You Can Receive Increases

Defined Benefit plans, like your SERS pension, may be eligible for Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA). They often rise with inflation.

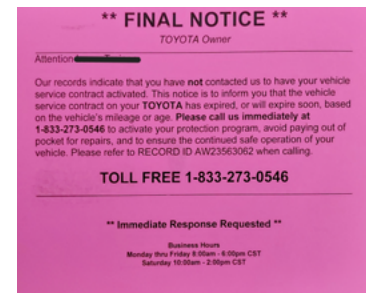
With a DC plan, there are no COLA increases.

Scam Alert: Fake Vehicle Service Notifications Circulating

They come in the mail. They look real. They feel urgent.

Did you receive a bright pink postcard informing you that your vehicle service contract has not been activated? Did it say this was your final notice before your warranty expires? Did it say it was a factory warranty alert?

Don't fall for it. These "Final Notice" postcards are fake.



They are designed to look official. They look as if they are affiliated with your car dealership or manufacturer, but they are not. They want you to call the phone number listed so you'll buy an extended warranty.

Just because they know the make of your vehicle does not mean they are connected to your dealership or manufacturer. These types of companies get vehicle registration information from public records.

Red flags include:

- "FINAL NOTICE" written on the postcard
- Pressure to call immediately or lose coverage
- No actual dealership information other than the make of your car

If you have questions about your real warranty, contact your dealership directly using the number from their official website or your paperwork.

Don't be fooled. Save your money.



Ask SERS

Q: I plan on leaving Ohio at Thanksgiving to spend the winter at my home in Florida. Do I need to update my address?

A: Yes. Having your current address on file is a safety precaution that protects your pension and your identity. SERS needs to know that any information we send about your pension and healthcare gets to you safely, and since not all types of mail can be forwarded, we need to have your current address on file. Returned mail may lead to your pension being suspended until we have an updated address. Forwarding your address at the post office does not update your address with SERS.

To update your address with SERS, use Account Login or complete the Personal Information Change Form on our website at www.ohsers.org.

If you have not yet registered for your online account, easy to follow step-by-step instructions on how to set up your Account Login by following prompts also are available on our website at www.ohsers.org or by [clicking here](#).

Thinking Ahead: Granting a Power of Attorney



There may be times when you are temporarily unable to manage your financial or healthcare matters, such as during a hospital or nursing home stay. In these moments, having a trusted friend or family member authorized to act on your behalf can provide important peace of mind.

If you would like someone else to handle your SERS-related financial or healthcare matters, you must submit either a General Power of Attorney

Form or a Limited Power of Attorney Form to SERS.

This step is required because SERS' pension payments may only be managed or cashed by authorized individuals. Granting Power of Attorney allows the person you designate to act on your behalf. In situations where a Power of Attorney is not in place, a probate court may appoint a guardian instead.

A Limited Power of Attorney Form is available upon request from SERS. For more information, contact SERS at 800-878-5853.

Reminder Checklist

Until your next issue of *Retiree Focus* arrives in January, remember:

- ✓ That 1099-R Forms will be mailed in January
- ✓ If your marital status changes or your beneficiary passes away, contact SERS
- ✓ To make sure we have your most current address, phone number, and email address



RETIREE PROFILE

Destined to Drive, Retiree Trades Bus for Tractor

Dale Busch of Millbury, Ohio, was just looking for a part-time job. He worked full-time as a mechanic but had always wanted to drive a school bus.

Then, destiny intervened.

Just as he took that part-time job, the company where he worked as a mechanic closed.

That was 1980.

For the last 46 years, Busch has been driving a school bus for Lake Local Schools and the Lake Local School District. He just retired this past June.



Although he “enjoyed doing it all” as a school bus driver, one of the highlights of his job was when he had a route where he picked up his granddaughter.

“That was my favorite route,” he said.

During his career, he also attained a stellar driving record, outstandingly safe with no accidents.

At 86 years old, he has big plans for retirement.

“I don’t have time to get old,” he said. “I’m too busy.”

He likes to work outside. He farms in his spare time. He has operated a hay and straw farm for more than four decades, and during the

harvest season, hay needs to be cut, dried, baled, and stored. He’s often out in the fields, working into the night.

The secret to staying young “is work,” he said.

In his retirement, Busch also plans on doing some traveling and visiting family out-of-state. As an avid sports fan, he plans on continuing to support his teams, including the Cleveland Browns, Toledo Mud Hens, and of course, the Lake Local Flyers. He especially enjoys football, baseball, track, and soccer. Fall is one of his favorite seasons for athletics.

Although he misses the kids and his coworkers, don’t be surprised if he shows up on a Friday night at a Flyers football game. Just look up in the stands—or maybe even—down on the sidelines, cheering and talking to the coaching staff.

Being a local legend has its perks.



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