

Retirement Systems Reciprocal Act Fact Sheet

Reciprocal Systems	
Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund 425 S. Financial Place, Ste. 1400 Chicago, IL 60605-1000	ctpf.org 312-641-4464 Fax: 312-641-7185
County Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Cook County 70 W. Madison St, Ste. 1925 Chicago, IL 60602-3103	cookcountypension.com 312-603-1200 Fax: 312-603-9760
Forest Preserve District Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Cook County 70 W. Madison St, Ste. 1925 Chicago, IL 60602-3103	cookcountypension.com 312-603-1200 Fax: 312-603-9760
Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund 2211 York Rd., Ste. 500 Oak Brook, IL 60523-2337	imrf.org 800-ASK-IMRF (800-275-4673) Fax: 630-706-4289
Judges' & General Assembly Retirement Systems 2101 S. Veterans Pkwy, P.O. Box 19255 Springfield, IL 62794-9255	srs.illinois.gov 217-782-8500 Fax: 217-524-9039
Laborers' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago 321 N. Clark St., Ste. 1300 Chicago, IL 60654-4739	labfchicago.org 312-236-2065 Fax: 312-236-0574
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Retirement Fund 111 E. Erie, Ste. 330 Chicago, IL 60611-2898	mwrdrf.org 312-751-3222 Fax: 312-751-5699
Municipal Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago 321 N. Clark, Ste. 700 Chicago, IL 60654-4767	meabf.org 312-236-4700 Fax: 312-527-0192
Park Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago 3500 S. Morgan St., Ste. 400 Chicago, IL 60609	chicagoparkpension.org 312-553-9265 Fax: 312-553-9114
State Employees' Retirement System of Illinois 2101 S. Veterans Pkwy, P.O. Box 19255 Springfield, IL 62794-9255	srs.illinois.gov Springfield: 217-785-7444 Chicago: 312-814-5853 Fax: 217-524-2293

What is system reciprocity?

The Illinois Retirement Systems Reciprocal Act gives retiring Illinois public employees the option to use service credit earned within the public retirement systems listed in this fact sheet toward a benefit calculated based upon combined pension service between funds.

To use the provisions of the Reciprocal Act, the systems will exchange information regarding service credits, earnings and other important information to determine payable benefits.

Earning service credits

Service credits are earned based on the amount of time you participate in a retirement system. Service credit established in all retirement systems is considered under the Reciprocal Act, with the exception of the following:

- credit of less than one year (12 months) of participation in any system, except credit earned by teacher's aides in IMRF (check with your IMRF representative for specific provisions on this rule);
- credits that have been forfeited by accepting a refund, but have not been repaid; and
- credits that have already been applied toward a retirement pension.

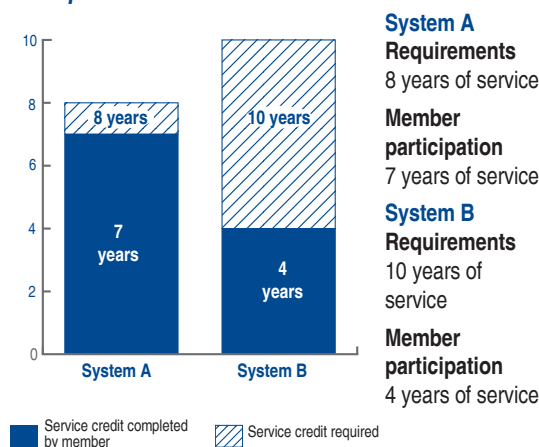
Benefits of reciprocity

You can decide if you want to combine your service credits or retire independently under each individual system. In both scenarios, you must meet the qualifications of each individual retirement system before you are eligible to earn a pension, but combining service credits can potentially give you enough total service credits to qualify in a system that you might not have enough credits for otherwise (Example 1).

Because of the ability to use your service credits among reciprocal systems, you could have a larger combined pension and/or begin drawing benefits earlier than if you retire from each system independently.

Reciprocal Systems (Cont'd)	
State Universities Retirement System 1901 Fox Drive Champaign, IL 61820-7333	surs.org 800-275-7877 Fax: 217-378-9800
Teachers' Retirement System 2815 W. Washington St., P.O. Box 19253 Springfield, IL 62794-9253	trsil.org 877-927-5877 Fax: 217-753-0394

Example 1: The benefit of time



This member wouldn't have enough service credit to retire independently in either system.

However, under reciprocity the member's combined service credit is 11 years, which qualifies the member for a proportional pension from each system (assuming the member meets all other system requirements for eligibility).

Example 2: The potential of a higher benefit

A member has 12 years of service with a final average compensation (FAC) of \$1,600 per month with System A, and 20 years of service with a FAC of \$2,400 per month with System B.

System A has a flat rate formula of 1.67% for each year of service. $1.67\% \times 12 = 20.04\%$ $20.04\% \times \$1,600 \text{ (FAC)} = \$320.64/\text{month}$	Total combined benefit of \$1,161.84 Now let's see what the benefit would be when calculated with reciprocity: $1.67\% \times 12 = 20.04\%$ $20.04\% \times \$2,400 \text{ (highest FAC for both systems)} = \$480.96/\text{month}$
System B has a step-rate formula of 1.67% for each year of the first 15 years and 2% for each year after. $1.67\% \times 15 = 25.05\%$ $2\% \times 5 = 10.00\%$ 35.05% $35.05\% \times \$2,400 \text{ (FAC)} = \$841.20/\text{month}$	$1.67\% \times 3 = 5.01\%$ $2\% \times 17 = 34.00\%$ 39.01% $39.01\% \times \$2,400 \text{ (FAC)} = \$936.24/\text{month}$ Total combined benefit of \$1,417.20 with reciprocity

If you choose to combine your service credits using reciprocity, you must meet the highest minimum qualification of all systems involved. Each system looks at combined service credits and earnings, paying their share of the pension accordingly. The highest final average compensation (FAC) from all systems is used to calculate your benefit, but each system uses its own formula to determine the amount you'll receive from them, including annual increases (Example 2).

Concurrent service

If a member is granted service credit by multiple funds for a given period of time, adjustments are made to ensure the member does not receive service credit from both systems for the same period of time.

If you contribute to multiple systems in the same month, it's not legally permitted to earn more than one-month's service credit during that time.

Reinstating service credits

If you previously participated in a reciprocal system and took a refund when you separated service, you will need to reinstate your service credit in order to include it in your reciprocal benefit.

You can do this by repaying the refunded amount after a minimum of two years with another retirement system, but it must be reinstated while you're still a contributing member under the Reciprocal Act.

Pension estimates

You can receive an estimate of your benefit by submitting a request to the most recent system with which you're employed. Include information about all systems you participated in, as well as your estimated retirement date.

Applying for benefits

If you'd like to apply for benefits under the Reciprocal Act, you should:

- request an application from each system you participated in a minimum of 60 days before your planned retirement date; and
- return the completed forms to each system, requesting reciprocity provisions.

Returning to work

If you have started receiving retirement benefits but return to work in a position covered by one of the reciprocal systems paying a pension to you, all systems may suspend payments based on direction from that employing system.

Once your employment ends, the pension payments will be reinstated. Each system will determine if your benefit needs to be recalculated to add the additional service credits earned.