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# GOOD NEWS AHEAD—YOU HAVE AN EXTRA SPECIAL BENEFIT FROM THE WYOMING RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

Look inside to learn more!



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# YOUR PENSION PLAN IS WORKING FOR YOU WHILE YOU'RE WORKING FOR THE CITIZENS OF WYOMING.

You're automatically included  
in one of the Wyoming Retirement  
System's pension plans.\*

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We use "WRS" for short. This is a highly valuable and unique benefit for Wyoming's public employees—teachers, police officers, firefighters and employees of the state of Wyoming, university, community colleges, cities, towns, counties and special districts. Here, you can learn about your pension and why it is so valuable to your future.

\* Most public employees in Wyoming are members of a pension plan administered by WRS and, with the exception of paid firefighters and some police, participate in Social Security. If you are not sure about your participation, or which pension plan you are in, check with your human resources office.

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# YOUR PENSION IS UNIQUE AND HIGHLY VALUABLE.

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When you retire, you can receive monthly payments for the rest of your life.

Because WRS' pension plans are well managed and financially strong, your benefits will be there as long as you need them.\*

\* See WRS' Annual Summary Report for more details on the status of pension plan funding.

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# A PENSION PLAN HAS SOME KEY ADVANTAGES.

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Because your pension is professionally invested, you don't have to make complex investment decisions.

Additionally, your pension will last for your lifetime, no matter how long you live. This means you don't have to worry about running out of money in retirement.

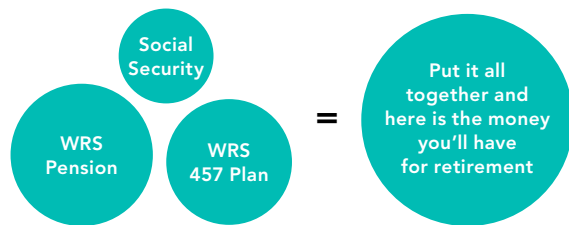
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## How does it work?

The amount of your monthly payments depends on your years of service under WRS employers and your average salary. Specifics for the various pension plans differ, but the concept is the same.

Because you can maintain your pension membership if you move your job to one of the other roughly 700 participating government employers in Wyoming, your years of service are added together and your monthly pension continues to build.

Combined with WRS' 457 Deferred Compensation Plan and Social Security, there's a great chance you will be ready for retirement on your terms.... when you want to retire.



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Your WRS Pension, WRS 457 Plan, and Social Security are a powerful combination

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## What do you have to do to start benefitting from your pension?

Although you are automatically enrolled in one of WRS' pensions by your employer, there is one very simple yet extremely important step for you to take to enhance the value of your pension benefit.

Be sure to establish your on-line pension account by going to [retirement.wyo.gov](http://retirement.wyo.gov). Once you've done so, you'll need to name your beneficiary. This is the person you want to receive your pension benefits should you pass away.

Some important concepts for you to know  
Your benefits are determined by how long you work for an employer participating in WRS. Generally speaking, as long as you work for a participating employer, your number of years of service keeps adding up and your pension benefits keep growing.\*

\* A change in occupation at a WRS participating employer could result in you needing to switch to a different pension plan. This will mean you start over in the new pension plan and can either keep or withdraw your existing one. This usually pertains to those in the occupations of public safety officer, firefighter, dispatcher, game warden or judge.

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If you stop working for a participating employer, and are vested, you still get pension benefits at your eligible retirement age if you leave your account balance with WRS.

Your pension benefit is funded by your employer's contributions on your behalf, as well as your contributions. In some cases employers pay for some or all of the employee contributions as part of overall compensation. Look at your pay stub or check with your employer for details.

If you terminate employment with your WRS participating employer you are eligible to withdraw employee contributions to the pension, including interest, as taxable income. However, you will forfeit any future pension benefits and, if you are not yet 59 1/2, you may pay a 10% tax penalty on the amount you withdraw. So please think carefully before you withdraw your contributions.

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## Questions?

If you have any questions about your Pension or 457 Plan, please do not hesitate to contact the Wyoming Retirement System.



Wyoming Retirement System  
[Retirement.wyo.gov](http://Retirement.wyo.gov)  
[pension@wyo.gov](mailto:pension@wyo.gov)  
307.777.7691

This brochure is intended as a simple message for WRS members about the basics of WRS pension benefits. It is not a comprehensive explanation of the programs WRS administers. It is recommended you review the pension plan handbook for the plan to which you belong.

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