

TERMINATION GUIDELINES

OPTIONAL RETIREMENT PLAN FOR SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

The benefits provided under the Optional Retirement Plan for School Superintendents (ORPSS) are intended to provide income in retirement. If you are leaving employment where you participated in the ORPSS you may, in most cases, begin a distribution from the Plan. Unless you continue to be employed as defined by the Internal Revenue Service and the Code of Virginia, you must begin a required minimum distribution from the Plan no later than April 1 of the year following the year you reach age 70 ½.

Employment Status

You may not receive a benefit from the ORPSS if you are reemployed in a position which provides retirement benefits in any of the following plans: The Virginia Retirement system (VRS), the Judicial Retirement System (JRS), the State Police Officers Retirement System (SPORS), the Virginia Law Officers Retirement System (VALORS), any Optional Retirement Plan or Alternative Retirement Plan authorized in the Code of Virginia.

If you return to part-time employment (non-salaried; non-classified) with the employer who provided the ORPSS plan, you must meet the following criteria to receive a payment from your ORPSS account:

1. Have a break-in-service of no less than one full calendar month during which you received no compensation or benefits from your employer (summer breaks, annual leave, sick leave, FMLA leave of less than 12 weeks or more based on employer's policy, educational leave, and sabbaticals do not count toward the full calendar month required for a break-in-service); and
2. You and your employer had no pre-determined date that you return to employment; and
3. The work you do does not have the same duties or hours that you worked prior to leaving your ORPSS-covered position.

Eligibility for Benefits After Termination of Employment

1. Group Life Insurance

In some cases employees continue to be covered by group life insurance after they terminate employment with the school division providing the plan. If you are age 55 with at least five years of service or age 50 with at least 10 years of service, you continue to be covered by the Group Life Insurance Plan whether or not you begin a distribution from the ORPSS. A 25 percent reduction in the amount of your coverage begins on January 1 of the first full calendar year after you terminate employment and continues each January 1 until the amount of your coverage is 25 percent of the value of the natural death coverage at termination of employment.

If at the time you terminate employment with the school division providing the plan you are covered by Optional Group Life Insurance, you may continue that coverage until you reach age 80 if you continue to pay the premiums.

If you do not qualify to continue life insurance coverage after you terminate employment you may, within 31 days of termination, convert you coverage to a private policy at non-group rates without providing evidence of insurability.

For more information, visit the VRS Web site at www.varetire.org or call Minnesota Life at 1-800-441-2258.

2. Health Benefits

Speak with your Human Resources office for information on any health insurance benefits that are available to you once you retire or terminate employment.

3. Retiree Health Insurance Credit

You qualify for the retiree health insurance credit if you meet the following criteria:

- 1) You terminate employment and are not reemployed in a position that causes you to be covered by one of the retirement plans created by Title 51.1, Chapter 1, 2, 2.1 or 3 of the Code of Virginia.
- 2) You are receiving a periodic distribution from your ORPSS account.
- 3) You are enrolled and paying a premium for yourself in an individual or employer-sponsored health insurance plan or Medicare Part B.
- 4) Your employer certifies your eligibility for the health insurance credit by completing the Optional/ Alternative Retirement Plan Health Insurance Credit Employer Certification of Service (VRS-75).

Currently the credit is \$4 per month per year of service. The credit you receive may not exceed the amount paid for your health insurance. This is a tax-free benefit.

For more information read the “Handbook for Participants of the Commonwealth of Virginia Optional Retirement Plan for School Superintendents” found on the VRS Web site at www.varetire.org under the Defined Contribution Plans tab.

Employer Certification of Group Life Insurance Status

This section is only completed if the employee leaves full time employment with the employer. It is not completed if you transfer or change classification and you remain in an active status.

Taking a Distribution from your Plan

If you intend to start a distribution from the ORPSS, contact ING, the plan record keeper, for your choices and the necessary forms. VRS Member Services must sign your distribution form certifying that you are eligible for the distribution.

Contact information: ING
 P.O. Box 5159
 Boston, MA 02206-5159
 Toll Free Phone: 1-VRS-DC-PLAN1 (877-327-5261)
 Toll Free Fax: 1-888-998-8954

You may also refer to the VRS Web site at www.varetire.org under the Defined Contribution Plans tab for more information about the ORP for School Superintendents Plan and the forms you may need.