


Employer Relations

News & Information from the  ARIZONA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

ASRS Compensation, Redefined

On August 27, 2019, SB1018 redefined what ASRS compensation is for members that join the ASRS effective January 1, 2020 going forward. It is important to remember that those who were members before January 1, 2020 will still have the same definition of compensation that we have today, through the remainder of their active membership.



On or after January 1, 2020, new ASRS members will have a simplified definition of compensation. It will only include the gross wages paid to the member, by the employer, for services rendered to the employer during the period considered as credited service.

This will include pay for overtime, pay for using leave time, bonuses and performance pay (including Prop 301 for teachers). It includes anything listed on the member's W-2 as wages, tips, and other compensation for services rendered.

For more information on compensation, make sure to visit the [Employer page of AzASRS.gov](#).

65+ Membership Waiver



Can someone opt out of participating in the Arizona State Retirement System? New employees of ASRS employers may be eligible to waive participation in the ASRS, but only if they meet certain criteria.

To be Eligible to Opt Out

New Articles For Employers

- [A Review of the 2019 Employer Conference](#)
- [What are "Basics for Employers" Meetings?](#)
- [Upcoming Enhancement for Employer Executive Contacts](#)
- [Is your Business Contact Info Current?](#)

Help Educate Your Employees

Did you know the ASRS offers educational meetings for your employees at your own location? If you have 20 or more employees who want to attend an Informational Session, Route 3, or Route 4 meeting, ASRS will present at your location. **But, our availability to come to you fills quickly - currently we're booking meetings for after January 2nd, 2020!** To reserve a time, just contact Randi Gray at 602-308-5156 or RandiG@AzASRS.gov. In addition, we ask you to please include three possible times and dates for each presentation you're requesting.

Beginning August 2, 2012, a new employee who is not a member of the ASRS, who is already at least 65 years of age on the first day of employment, and for whom the ASRS receives a completed 65+ Membership Waiver within 30 days of employment is exempt from ASRS membership. (A.R.S. § 38-727(A)(8))

ASRS retirees, members who are inactive, and those currently receiving ASRS long term disability benefits are members and this waiver is not applicable to them. A former member who has previously forfeited/refunded their ASRS membership is no longer an ASRS member, and therefore could be eligible to opt out of the ASRS.

New employees who wish to opt out of ASRS must do so by completing the 65+ Membership Waiver form, which must be obtained from the ASRS employer. The election to waive membership is irrevocable for the remainder of their employment with that employer and constitutes a waiver of all benefits provided by the ASRS, including the ability to purchase the time of employment as service credit in the future.

Each time a 65+ Membership Waiver is approved by the ASRS, it is applicable only to that period of employment at that employer. The waiver is not transferable to employment at additional ASRS employers and is not valid for future rehire at the same employer. A new waiver is required for employment at a different employer or for a new period of employment at a previous employer.

[>>Finish reading about employer responsibilities with employees opting out of the ASRS](#)

Why is this important to do now? Spring and early summer is our busiest time of year to process member retirement applications, which means our spring classes for members tend to fill up fast. Booking a meeting at your own location makes it more convenient for your employees to get answers to all their questions.

Also, remember that if you have employees looking for answers as they near retirement, you can always refer them to our website, AzASRS.gov where they can do some research on their own, login to their account via myASRS, or sign up for meetings and webinars that are hosted at our downtown Phoenix and Tucson offices.



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