



Compare Your Options

As a new State of Colorado or Colorado community college employee, you may select from two types of retirement plans offered by Colorado PERA. Whether you are comfortable investing for your retirement or would like professionals to invest on your behalf, Colorado PERA has an option for you.

What is Colorado PERA?

Colorado PERA was established in 1931 by the Colorado General Assembly, at the request of a group of State employees who foresaw the need for a safe and secure retirement system. PERA pre-dates the creation of Social Security, and as a State of Colorado or community college employee, you do not contribute to that system, although workers hired after March 1986 contribute 1.45 percent of their pay to Medicare.

Colorado PERA serves over 470,000 public employees today. PERA is governed by a 16-member Board of Trustees, 11 of whom are elected by the membership. The Board works closely with your elected officials to ensure the soundness of one of the State's largest financial institutions.

What Plans Does PERA Offer?

Colorado PERA has two types of plans—a defined benefit (DB) plan and a defined contribution (DC) plan available for eligible new State and community college employees. The PERA DB Plan is the traditional retirement plan, where your contributions are invested by professionals for you. In the PERA DC Plan, you direct your investments to an array of fund options.

Eligibility Requirements

You may be eligible to participate in PERAChoice if you are:

- A State of Colorado employee hired on or after January 1, 2006.
- A community college employee hired on or after January 1, 2008, at one of the institutions listed to the right.

If PERA has received contributions on your behalf from you and another PERA-affiliated employer in the last 12 months, you cannot participate in PERAChoice and must return to the plan in which you previously participated. PERA retirees are not eligible to participate.

If PERA has not received contributions on your behalf in the past 12 months, and you are not a PERA retiree, you are eligible to participate in PERAChoice. (The term PERA retiree includes retirees of the Denver Public Schools Retirement System who retired prior to January 1, 2010, and PERA retirees under the DPS benefit structure after January 1, 2010.)

Community colleges eligible to participate in PERAChoice:

- Arapahoe Community College
- Colorado Community College System
- Colorado Northwestern Community College
- Community College of Aurora
- Community College of Denver
- Front Range Community College
- Lamar Community College
- Morgan Community College
- Northeastern Junior College
- Otero Junior College
- Pikes Peak Community College
- Pueblo Community College
- Red Rocks Community College
- Trinidad State Junior College



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Making the Decision—DB or DC

The PERA DB retirement plan is a hybrid defined benefit plan. It is designed to attract and retain employees who are interested in working in PERA-covered employment for a large part of their careers, while providing greater portability than a traditional defined benefit plan.

Unlike the PERA DB Plan, the PERA DC Plan is based solely on the money you have contributed, the investment earnings or losses incurred, minus expenses. You have the flexibility to make investment decisions, which also means you assume the investment risks. The amount of your benefit can sometimes be difficult to determine given that the amount depends on the success of your investment decisions, when you begin withdrawals, and your life expectancy.

Over the years, PERA has worked with the State Legislature and others to address issues such as portability, cost-of-living adjustments, and the level of benefits PERA members receive. These changes have made the PERA DB Plan more flexible and portable. PERA members benefit from a conservative yet innovative approach to public pension management.

The PERA DB and PERA DC Plans are both considered 401(a) plans and are created under that section of the Internal Revenue Code.

Defined Benefit Plan Features

- Lifetime retirement benefit
- Ancillary benefits such as disability and survivor coverage
- Plan invests for all beneficiaries, and individual contributors do not control the amount of their contributions nor their investments
- Also known as a traditional pension plan

Defined Contribution Plan Features

- The retirement benefit equals the amount accumulated in the account over time and the benefit ends when the account balance is depleted
- Employees contribute to a tax-deferred plan, making their own investment decisions
- Employees have their own unique accounts
- Plan type generally labeled according to the governing section of the Internal Revenue Code, such as 401(k), 403(b), 457, or a 401(a) plan

Personal Investment Assessment

By answering the following questions, you'll be better able to determine what type of plan (DB or DC) is right for you.

Do you like to manage your own investments? Yes No

If you answered Yes, consider PERA DC.

If you answered No, consider PERA DB.

Do you have the time and knowledge to appropriately invest for your retirement security? Yes No

If you answered Yes, consider PERA DC.

If you answered No, consider PERA DB.

Do you have dependents that rely on you for financial support? Yes No

If you answered Yes, consider PERA DB since your contribution includes survivor benefits and disability coverage.

If you answered No, consider PERA DC.

Are you still unsure of what type of plan to choose—DB or DC? Yes No

If you answered Yes, keep in mind that after a year of contributing to either the PERA DB or PERA DC Plan, you can switch plans between years 2 and 5 of participation.

If you answered No, complete the *PERAChoice Election and Release Form* in this packet within 60 calendar days of your date of hire to start investing in your future. (After 60 days, you'll be automatically enrolled in the PERA DB Plan.)



Defined Benefit Plan

As the premier Defined Benefit plan available to public employees in the State of Colorado, PERA has served Colorado public employees since 1931. An Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a) hybrid defined benefit plan, PERA operates as a “qualified retirement plan” and for most members serves as a substitute for Social Security. (PERA began before Social Security was created. In 1951, public employers could join Social Security; the Colorado Legislature decided to continue the PERA program instead of joining Social Security.)

PERA provides its members and retirees with a comprehensive benefit package that includes the following:

- Lifetime retirement benefits, which can continue to a cobeneficiary after your death
- Good portability provisions
- Tax-deferred interest on member contributions
- Comprehensive survivor and disability benefits
- Cost-of-living increases in retirement benefits, as allowed for under State law
- Access to PERACare retiree health care, including dental and vision plans
- Ability to invest in a voluntary 401(k) Plan
- Ability to invest in a voluntary 457 Plan if your employer is affiliated with the 457 Plan
- Access to a voluntary life insurance program

PERA Benefits At A Glance...

The Advantages of Membership in PERA

- Your PERA contributions of 8 percent are tax deferred, which means reduced current state and federal income taxes. (State Troopers and CBI Agents contribute 10 percent.) For the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 State fiscal years (July 2010 through June 2012), the PERA member contribution amount is 10.5 percent for members employed in the State Division.
- You earn a fixed interest rate on your member contributions (currently 3 percent compounded annually). The rate is set by the Board and is subject to change annually.
- You may receive a match on some of your contributions and interest if you withdraw your account instead of electing to receive a monthly benefit. For more information regarding eligibility for a match and the match amount, please see the *Terminating PERA-Covered Employment* brochure.
- Your qualified survivors will be eligible for a monthly benefit or a lump-sum payment, whichever is applicable.
- You receive a lifetime retirement benefit after meeting age and service requirements.
- You receive benefits based on your highest average salary, age at retirement, and number of years of service. See the *Your PERA Benefits* brochure for more information.

Did you know that as a new PERAChoice participant you will have the one-time option of switching between the PERA DB and DC Plans? Between years two and five you can change your mind and end participation in one plan and begin participation in the other plan.



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PERA Defined Benefit Option

Even if you are a Colorado PERA member for only a short period of time during your career, your Colorado PERA membership is still valuable to you. The following example illustrates how over a period of time, a Colorado PERA member contribution account will grow with compounded interest.

The example below uses Jim, a Colorado PERA member who earned five years of service credit before terminating employment at age 30. Jim’s annual salary was \$30,000, with 3.5 percent raises per year. The refund and benefit amounts assume an annual interest rate in effect at the time. The interest rate is set by the Colorado PERA Board and is subject to change annually.

When Jim terminated employment, he had an account balance of \$14,555 (member contributions and interest compounded annually for five years).

Jim has the option to withdraw (refund) his account after he terminates employment or leave it at Colorado PERA until he reaches retirement age and then either refunds his account or elects to receive a monthly benefit.

If Jim has a PERA benefit structure account, decides to refund, and is not eligible for retirement, his refund amount would be his account balance of \$14,555 plus a 50 percent match (since he has five years of earned service credit),* for a total refund of \$21,833. If Jim has a DPS benefit structure account, he would not receive a matching amount and his refund would be \$14,555.

Jim also has the option of leaving his account with Colorado PERA where it will continue to earn interest. Over a 30-year period and as a result of compounding, Jim’s account will grow from \$14,555 to \$36,031. When Jim is eligible for retirement (age 60 under the PERA benefit structure and age 65 under the DPS benefit structure), he can refund his account with a 100 percent match. Under the DPS benefit structure, he will receive the match if he terminated employment on or after January 1, 2001, otherwise no match is included. Jim will receive a total refund of \$72,062 under the PERA benefit structure (if he refunds at age 60). If Jim has a DPS benefit structure account and terminated employment on or after January 1, 2001, he will receive a total refund of \$83,538 (if he refunds at age 65).

Jim may also choose to receive a *lifetime* monthly benefit. If Jim has a PERA benefit structure account and chooses an Option 1 benefit, at age 60, his benefit amount would be \$467 per month. If Jim has a DPS benefit structure account and chooses an Option A benefit, at age 65, his benefit amount will be \$612 per month.

Based on applicable law, Jim may be eligible for annual increases to his retirement benefit.

Reasons to Leave Your Account With Colorado PERA Until Retirement

- Your account will continue to earn interest compounded annually.
- If you refund your account prior to age 59½, in addition to regular federal and state income taxes, you may have to pay a 10 percent early withdrawal penalty to the Internal Revenue Service.
- Most Colorado PERA members do not contribute to Social Security, so if an account is refunded, retirement savings for that period of employment are gone.

PERA Defined Benefit and DPS

If you are under the DPS benefit structure and you become eligible for PERAChoice because you had a 12-month break in service, and choose the PERA DB Plan, you will be entitled to another choice of which DB benefit structure to participate in. If you are eligible for this additional choice, PERA will notify you by sending you materials you need to make this choice. If you have any questions about your eligibility for this additional choice and your options under this choice, call PERA at 303-832-9550 or 1-800-759-PERA (7372), do not select the DC Choice option.

Account Balance Each Year with Compounded Interest

Age	Account Balance
30	\$14,555
35	\$17,200
40	\$19,942
45	\$23,120
50	\$26,804
55	\$31,078
60	\$36,031
65	\$41,769

* Effective January 1, 2011, under the PERA benefit structure, you must have five years of earned service credit to receive a 50 percent match. If you have five years of earned service credit and you are not eligible for retirement, you will receive a 50 percent match on contributions and interest. If you do not have five years of earned service credit and you are not eligible for retirement, you will receive a 50 percent match on contributions and interest received on or before December 31, 2010, and you will not receive a match on contributions and interest received on or after January 1, 2011. See the *Terminating PERA-Covered Employment* booklet for more information.

Defined Contribution Plan

If you choose to participate in the PERA DC Plan, you must set how your future contributions will be invested. To do this, go to www.copera.org and click on “DC Plan Asset Allocation.” You’ll then choose how to invest among the PERAdvantage investment options, which allow you to select your investments by choosing one of the two paths below that best describe your level of investment knowledge:

1 I am not sure how to invest.

If you feel you don’t have the time and knowledge to make future investment decisions or aren’t sure when it’s appropriate to reallocate your investments as life circumstances change, consider these options:

Choose a Target Retirement Date Fund

You can make one investment decision by choosing one fund, based on your expected retirement date. This Target Retirement Date fund is designed to automatically grow more conservative as you reach your retirement date.

Professional Management

For an additional fee, a Professional Account Manager will review how your DC Plan investments fit in with other investments you have, develop an individualized investment plan, implement that plan, monitor your account, and manage allocations.

2 I am comfortable making my own investment decisions.

If you have the time and knowledge to learn about your investment options and want to be responsible for reallocating investments as life circumstances change, consider these options:

Choose a Mix of Primary Investments (with Investment Advice at No Additional Charge)

You can choose what percentage of your contributions is invested in each of the following primary PERAdvantage investment funds:

- PERAdvantage Capital Preservation Fund
- PERAdvantage Fixed Income Fund
- PERAdvantage Real Return Fund
- PERAdvantage U.S. Large Cap Stock Fund
- PERAdvantage International Stock Fund
- PERAdvantage U.S. Small and Mid Cap Stock Fund

If you like to choose your own investments but need help deciding what asset allocation is right for you, you will have access investment advice at no additional charge through a Personal Online Advisor.

Additional Investment Options

If you want investments beyond the primary funds, you have additional choices:

SRI Fund

You may invest in the PERAdvantage SRI Fund, which is a balanced fund that screens for various social causes.

Self-Directed Brokerage

For an additional fee, you can choose investments beyond the primary funds, using a self-directed brokerage account.



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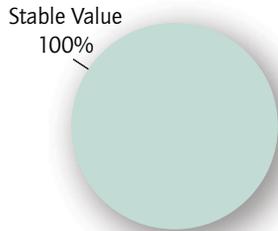
www.copera.org

Investment Fund Details

Each primary fund represents a specific asset class and is diversified within that asset class using a selection of underlying investments. For example, if you choose to invest a portion of your contributions in the PERAdvantage U.S. Large Cap Stock Fund, investments in that fund will generally be in U.S. companies with a market capitalization value of more than \$10 billion. The fund includes an underlying allocation to different investment styles like core, growth, and value, and uses both active and passive investment strategies. More details on the funds and their underlying investments is available by accessing the DC Plan Web site through www.copera.org.

PERAdvantage Capital Preservation Fund

This fund is 100 percent invested in a Great-West Stable Value Fund.

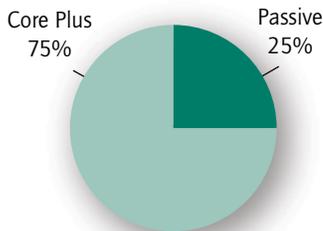


Total Asset-Based Fee: 0.35%

Benchmark: Hueler Stable Value Index

PERAdvantage Fixed Income Fund Core Plus

PIMCO Total Return Fund
Passive
BlackRock U.S. Debt Index Fund



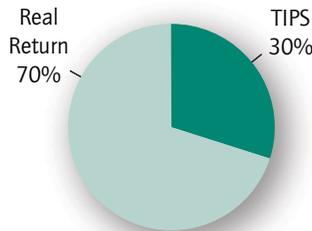
Total Asset-Based Fee: 0.50%

Benchmark: Barclays Capital Aggregate Bond Index

Note: The individual fund managers may change fees throughout the year. For the most current fee percentage, access the DC Plan Web site through www.copera.org. For specific or detailed information regarding each investment option, please review each fund's fact sheet, available on the DC Plan Web site.

PERAdvantage Real Return Fund

Real Return
SSgA Real Assets Fund
TIPS
SSgA U.S. Inflation Protected Bond Index Fund



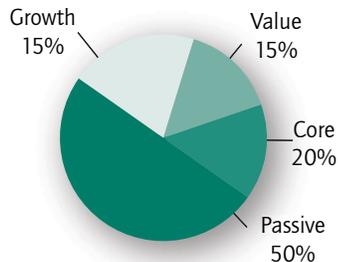
Total Asset-Based Fee: 0.32%

Benchmark: 30 percent Barclays Capital U.S. TIPS Index and 70 percent composite of the following indices: DJ-UBS Commodity Total Return Index, Barclays Capital U.S. TIPS Index, Dow Jones U.S. Select REIT Index, S&P Global Large MidCap Commodity and Resource Index

PERAdvantage U.S. Large Cap Stock Fund

Passive
PERA Russell 1000™ Index Portfolio
Value
LSV Asset Management U.S. Large Cap Value Equity Portfolio

Core
PERA Growth & Income Portfolio
Growth
Winslow Capital Management Large Cap Growth Portfolio

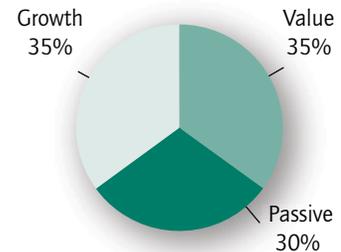


Total Asset-Based Fee: 0.36%

Benchmark: Russell 1000™ Index

PERAdvantage International Stock Fund

Passive
BlackRock MSCI ACWI ex-U.S. IMI Index Fund
Value
Dodge & Cox International Stock Fund
Growth
Harding Loevner International Equity Strategy Portfolio

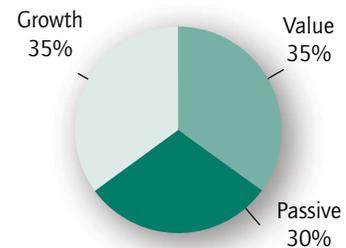


Total Asset-Based Fee: 0.60%

Benchmark: MSCI ACWI ex U.S. Index

PERAdvantage U.S. Small and Mid Cap Stock Fund

Passive
BlackRock Russell 2500™ Index Fund
Value
Dimensional Fund Advisors U.S. Targeted Value Fund
Growth
TimesSquare Small/Mid Cap Growth Portfolio



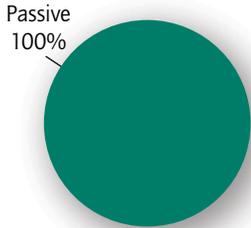
Total Asset-Based Fee: 0.56%

Benchmark: Russell 2500™ Index

(Investment fund details continued on next page)

PERAdvantage Target Retirement Date Funds: PERAdvantage Income, 2015, 2020, 2025, 2030, 2035, 2040, 2045, 2050, and 2055 funds

Each fund is 100 percent comprised of the corresponding BlackRock LifePath® Index Target Retirement Date Fund. These funds grow more conservative as they reach their target retirement date.



Total Asset-Based Fee: 0.26%

Benchmarks: Custom blends for each fund weighted in proportion to the fund mix.

Default Investment

If you choose the PERA DC Plan and do not choose how your contributions will be invested, your money will automatically be placed into a PERAdvantage Target Retirement Date fund based on your date of birth and an expected retirement date. For this purpose, PERA follows industry standard and assumes the expected retirement for all participants is at age 65. (This assumed expected retirement date does not reflect your actual retirement date or in any way affect the day on which you can retire.) Funds will be transferred to the PERAdvantage Target Retirement Date funds according to the table below:

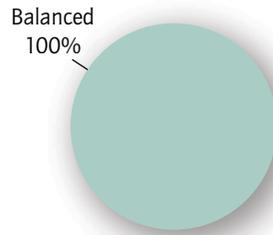
Fund	Date of Birth Range
PERAdvantage Income Fund	December 31, 1947, or earlier
PERAdvantage 2015 Fund	January 1, 1948, to December 31, 1952
PERAdvantage 2020 Fund	January 1, 1953, to December 31, 1957
PERAdvantage 2025 Fund	January 1, 1958, to December 31, 1962
PERAdvantage 2030 Fund	January 1, 1963, to December 31, 1967
PERAdvantage 2035 Fund	January 1, 1968, to December 31, 1972
PERAdvantage 2040 Fund	January 1, 1973, to December 31, 1977
PERAdvantage 2045 Fund	January 1, 1978, to December 31, 1982
PERAdvantage 2050 Fund	January 1, 1983, to December 31, 1987
PERAdvantage 2055 Fund	January 1, 1988, or later

Quarterly Account Statements

Every quarter, you will receive an easy-to-read statement that summarizes your account status, including your account balance, investment selections, and the current value of each investment. Or, if you'd prefer, you can generate a customized statement at any time on the DC Plan Web site.

PERAdvantage SRI Fund

This fund is 100 percent invested in the Pax World Balanced Institutional Fund.



Total Asset-Based Fee: 0.71%

Benchmark: 60 percent S&P 500 Index, 40 percent Barclays U.S. Capital Aggregate Bond Index

For more information, call PERA's Customer Service Center at 303-832-9550 or 1-800-759-7372. Information about PERA's DB and DC Plans is also available online at www.copera.org.

Web Site

You can access your PERA DC Plan account through PERA's Web site at www.copera.org using your Social Security number and a PERA Personal Identification Number (PIN). If you don't already have a PIN, PERA will mail one to you after we receive notification of your employment. Most Plan transactions and information requests can be made 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Participant Service Representatives

You may also speak with a Participant Service Representative any business day between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. (Mountain time), excluding New York Stock Exchange holidays. You must use your PIN to get your account information from a Participant Service Representative.

Administrative Fee

You will pay Plan administration flat fee of \$1.00 per month. If you also participate in the PERA 401(k) and/or PERA 457 Plan, you will pay \$1.00 per month for each plan.

To ensure that administrative costs are equitable among all Plan participants, you will also pay a Plan administration asset-based fee of 0.14 percent on each PERAdvantage fund. That fee is included in the total asset-based fees shown for each fund on pages 6 and 7. If you use a Self-Directed Brokerage Account, you will pay the Plan administration asset-based fee of 0.14 percent annually on the balance in brokerage account.

PERA DC Choice Vesting Schedule

Your Contributions: 100% immediately*

Your Employer's Contributions:

50%	Immediately*
60%	After 1 year of membership*
70%	After 2 years of membership*
80%	After 3 years of membership*
90%	After 4 years of membership*
100%	After 5 years of membership*

* Plus/minus investment gains/losses, minus fees

Voluntary Plans

You have the option of enrolling in several voluntary plans including PERA's life insurance and health care program. You may also join the PERAPlus 401(k) Plan, which allows you to make additional contributions to the same investment options as the DC Plan. You have access to loans and hardship withdrawals from your 401(k) money. You will also have access to the PERAPlus 457 Plan if your employer is affiliated with the Plan.

Distributions When Terminating PERA-Covered Employment

When you leave PERA-covered employment, you have several choices regarding the money in your DC Plan account:

- You can leave the money in the Plan.
- You must start distributions once you reach age 70½.
- You can request installment payments.
- You can roll over the balance to another qualified plan, 403(b), governmental 457 plan, or an IRA.
- You can take the money in cash, called a lump-sum distribution.

Distribution choices and rules are complicated. You are encouraged to talk with your tax adviser or financial planner before deciding how to take your distribution.

Note: Lump-sum distributions from the Plan will be subject to 20 percent federal tax withholding and, if you are less than age 59½, a 10 percent early withdrawal penalty may apply. Ordinary income taxes may apply. State and local taxes and withholding may also apply.

This publication provides general information about DB/DC Plans. PERA membership rights, benefits, and obligations are governed by Title 24, Article 51 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, and the Rules of the Colorado Public Employees' Retirement Association, which take precedence over any interpretations in this publication.

PERAChoice Election and Release Form

Colorado Public Employees' Retirement Association
PO Box 5800, Denver, Colorado 80217-5800
303-832-9550 or 1-800-759-PERA (7372) • Fax: 303-863-3727
www.copera.org



Dear PERAChoice Member:

Complete this form and choose between the Colorado PERA Defined Benefit (DB) or Defined Contribution (DC) Plan. Both plans are a substitute for Social Security.

To find out if you're eligible to participate in PERAChoice, contact your employer's human resources office or call PERA's Customer Service Center at 1-800-759-PERA (7372) or 303-832-9550.

More Information

Information about both the PERA DB and PERA DC plans is available from your employer's human resources office or PERA. You may call PERA's Customer Service Center at 1-800-759-PERA (7372) or 303-832-9550 to request information. PERA's Web site, www.copera.org, also has information about the plans available to you.

Next Steps

Depending on your choice, there are additional forms you will need to complete. All applicable forms are available on the PERA Web site.

- *If you choose PERA DB:* Complete a *PERA Member Information Form* to designate a beneficiary.
- *If you choose PERA DC:* Complete a *PERA DC Plan Beneficiary Designation Form* to designate a beneficiary. You should also determine how your future contributions will be invested by going to www.copera.org and clicking on "401(k) and DC Plan Information."

Switching Plans

If you are eligible for PERAChoice, you have the option to stop participating in your PERA DB account and begin participation in a PERA DC account or stop participating in your PERA DC account and begin participation in a PERA DB account. This is a one-time option and the change can only be made in years two through five of participation in the plan. For more information, refer to the *PERAChoice Years 2-5 Change/Transfer Form*. (PERAChoice members who were previously enrolled in a State DC plan and were transferred to PERA on July 1, 2009, do not have the option of switching plans.)

PERAChoice Election and Release Form

Colorado Public Employees' Retirement Association
 PO Box 5800, Denver, Colorado 80217-5800
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 www.copera.org



You must submit this form to your human resources office no later than 60 calendar days from your first day of employment. If you do not complete and return this form to your human resources office within 60 calendar days from your first day of employment, you will be automatically enrolled in PERA DB. You may obtain information about each of the plans available to you from PERA or your employer's human resources office. You may call PERA to discuss these plans at 1-800-759-PERA (7372) or 303-832-9550.

**Member
SSN**

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Name _____
Last First MI

Address _____
Street City State ZIP Code

Daytime Telephone () _____ Birth Date _____

Retirement Choice Election

You must choose one of the following:

I elect to enroll in the PERA DB retirement plan. I understand that I may, at a subsequent time, elect to participate in the PERA DC Plan.

OR

I elect to enroll in the PERA DC retirement plan. I understand that I may, at a subsequent time, elect to participate in the PERA DB Plan.

Retirement Choice Release

I am eligible to make an election to participate in the Colorado PERA DB Plan or the PERA DC Plan. I understand that it is my responsibility to coordinate any rollovers I may wish to make from previous retirement accounts to PERA (if applicable). I also understand that I must confirm that my payroll deductions are accurate for the plan I have selected/defaulted into and I will notify my human resources office of any corrections within 10 days after the month in which the election becomes effective.

Retirement Plan Election. I understand that I am allowed to make an election about my retirement plan only within the first 60 calendar days after my first day of employment. I understand I will have one additional opportunity to elect to transfer to the other PERA plan during years 2 through 5 of active participation (unless I was previously enrolled in a State DC plan that was transferred to PERA on July 1, 2009). I have read and understand the *PERAChoice Brochure*.

Investment of PERA DC Account. As a participant in the PERA DC Plan, I am responsible for deciding how my Plan account balance will be invested. I understand that my Plan account balance may increase or decrease based on the return on investments that I have selected. The individual investment funds offered under the PERA DC Plan could change in the future. Investment management fees may apply to the investments I select and administrative fees will be deducted from my PERA DC account.

Employee Contributions and Distributions. I understand that I must contribute a percentage of my salary to the Plan I select as a condition of participation.

Release of All Claims. In consideration for being able to participate in the Plan reflected on this form, I agree to release, hold harmless, and indemnify my employer and the Colorado Public Employees' Retirement Association and its Board of Trustees, and their employees, agents, contractors, successors, and assigns from any and all liability, for any negative consequences, loss, lost opportunity cost, or expense resulting from my election to participate in the Plan reflected on this form.

Member Signature _____ **Date** _____

For Payroll/Personnel Use Only	
Employer Name: _____	Employer Number: _____
Employee Status (FT, PT, Temp): _____	Date of Hire: _____
Date Election Form Received: _____	Screen Entry Date: _____
Entered By (print name): _____	Telephone Number: _____

Member Information Form—Defined Benefit Plan(s)

Colorado Public Employees' Retirement Association

PO Box 5800, Denver, Colorado 80217-5800

303-832-9550 or 1-800-759-PERA (7372) • Fax: 303-863-3727 • www.copera.org

To New Colorado PERA Members:

Welcome to membership in the Colorado Public Employees' Retirement Association (PERA).

As an employee of a public employer affiliated with Colorado PERA, you may or may not pay Social Security tax depending on whether your employer contributes to both Colorado PERA and Social Security. Colorado PERA is a qualified retirement plan that can substitute for Social Security, as required by law.

Upon receipt of this form, Colorado PERA will mail you a Colorado PERA membership packet that explains your Colorado PERA benefits and establish a member contribution account for you:

- You will contribute 8 percent* of your salary to your member contribution account through payroll deduction. If you are a State Trooper, you will contribute 10 percent.* Colorado PERA will pay interest on your member contribution account. The interest rate is determined by the Colorado PERA Board of Trustees and is subject to change annually. See the Colorado PERA Web site for the current rate or call Colorado PERA's Customer Service Center at 303-832-9550 or 1-800-759-7372.
- Your Colorado PERA contributions are tax-deferred and are not subject to federal or state income tax until they are withdrawn or received as a monthly benefit. Your contributions and interest will always be returned to you, either in the form of a lump-sum withdrawal or a monthly benefit.

While our mission is to provide members with retirement benefits, we also provide the following other benefits:

- Monthly benefits to your qualified survivors if you die after earning one year of service credit. If you have a DPS benefit structure account, eligibility for survivor benefits is different. See the *Survivor Benefits* booklet for more information.
- Disability coverage after you have five years of earned service credit.
- A voluntary life insurance program in which you may participate immediately.
- Voluntary retirement savings plans such as the PERAPlus 401(k) Plan and the PERAPlus 457 Plan (if your employer participates). For more information about these plans, see Colorado PERA's Web site at www.copera.org or call Colorado PERA's Customer Service Center at 303-832-9550 or 1-800-759-7372.
- The option to purchase service credit based on a refunded account or for employment not covered by Colorado PERA or another retirement program when you have one year of earned service credit. See the *Purchasing Service Credit* booklet for more information.

When you end Colorado PERA employment, you may leave your member contribution account with Colorado PERA (it will continue to earn interest). If you return to Colorado PERA employment, your account will be ready to accept additional contributions and you will build additional service credit. If you leave your account at Colorado PERA, be sure to keep us informed of your address to prevent your account from being transferred to the State's Unclaimed Property Fund.

Again, welcome to Colorado PERA! We will strive to inform you about your Colorado PERA benefits by sending you the Colorado PERA *Member Report* newsletter three times per year, a statement of your account annually after your first year of membership, and other publications.

**Members in the State and Judicial Divisions will contribute an additional 2.5 percent from July 2010 through June 2012.*

Member Information Form—Defined Benefit Plan(s) Instructions

Please read all of the following information before completing this form:

- Type or print in black ink and sign the form. Please do not send photocopies of this form or staple, tape, or glue items to it.
- If you are a new member, give the form to your personnel office to send to Colorado PERA.
- If you are changing information already on file with Colorado PERA, send it to Colorado PERA and provide your employer with a copy. Changes made on this form take effect upon receipt of the completed form at Colorado PERA.
- As a result of the merger between Colorado PERA and the Denver Public Schools Retirement System (DPSRS), some members may have two member contribution accounts with Colorado PERA—one under the PERA benefit structure and one under the DPS benefit structure. If you have two accounts, changes under the Member Information section will be made to both accounts (if applicable).
- If you have changed your name, changed employers, or want to change your address or beneficiary(ies), complete this form and send it to Colorado PERA. Colorado PERA requires a new copy of your signed Social Security card only if you have changed your name since sending in your initial copy.
- If you need to list additional named beneficiaries, attach a separate sheet with the type of beneficiary (primary or contingent), name(s), relationships, Social Security numbers, birthdates, addresses, and your signature. This page must be signed or your beneficiaries will not be added/changed.
If you complete any beneficiary information on this form and submit this form to Colorado PERA, you are canceling and replacing all of your previously named beneficiaries. If you want to continue any previous designations, you must fully name all named beneficiaries on this form or on a separate list submitted with this form.
- If you would like to change your address only, go to Colorado PERA's Web site (www.copera.org) and log in to your Account Access using your PERA PIN. You may change your address using "Update Contact Info." You may also call Colorado PERA's Customer Service Center at 303-832-9550 or 1-800-759-7372 and speak to a Customer Service Representative.
- If you need to change information on your Colorado PERA-sponsored life insurance, or PERAPlus 401(k) or 457 Plan, or PERA DC Plan, see the information below.

Named Beneficiary Information

If you have an account in both the PERA and DPS benefit structures, use the check boxes on the form to indicate if your requested beneficiary changes apply to one or both of your accounts. If you do not check a box, the beneficiary changes will be made to both accounts (if applicable).

Beneficiary definitions:

- Primary Beneficiary—beneficiary to receive payment. If you have more than one primary beneficiary, payment will be divided equally among all primary beneficiaries.
- Contingent Beneficiary—person to receive payment if your primary beneficiary(ies) is deceased. If you list more than one contingent beneficiary, payment will be divided equally among them.

Survivor Benefit Information

If you have more than one year of service under the PERA benefit structure or more than five years under the DPS benefit structure, State law specifies who receives monthly benefits after you die. Survivor benefits are different if you have a PERA or DPS benefit structure account, see the *Survivor Benefits* booklet for detailed information. No law shall apply to automatically revoke a spouse's designation as a named beneficiary upon your divorce, annulment, or any dissolution or declaration of invalidity of your marriage.

Changing Colorado PERA Life Insurance, PERAPlus 401(k) and 457 Plans, or PERA DC Plan Information

- If you are enrolled in Colorado PERA-sponsored life insurance and have changed employers, notify your new employer to deduct your life insurance premium. If you want to change your life insurance beneficiary(ies), call Unum toll-free at 1-866-277-1649 or go to Colorado PERA's Web site (www.copera.org) and log in to your Account Access using your PERA PIN and select "Life Insurance" under the Inquiry menu.
- If you have a PERAPlus 401(k) or 457 Plan, or PERA DC Plan, and need to change your name, address, or phone number, complete the *PERA Account(s) Address Change Form*. If you need to make beneficiary changes to your PERAPlus 401(k) or 457 Plan, or PERA DC Plan, complete the respective *401(k)*, *457*, or *PERA DC Plan Beneficiary Designation Form*. You can obtain the forms online at www.copera.org or by calling 1-800-759-7372 and selecting the PERAPlus 401(k) or 457 Plan, or the PERA DC Plan option.
- If you have a PERAPlus 401(k) Plan account and are transferring from or are currently employed by another Colorado PERA employer and actively contributing, notify your new employer's payroll office so that contributions may continue through your new employer. If you have a PERAPlus 457 Plan and need to add or change employers, log on to the PERA Web site and select the 457 Plan option.

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Member Information Form—Defined Benefit Plan(s)

Colorado Public Employees' Retirement Association
PO Box 5800, Denver, Colorado 80217-5800

303-832-9550 or 1-800-759-PERA (7372) • Fax: 303-863-3727 • www.copera.org



Read the instructions to the left before completing this form. Be sure to sign and date this form as well as any enclosures.

SSN

SSN input boxes: [][][] - [][] - [][][][]

Member Information—to be completed by you.

I am: A New Member Changing Colorado PERA Information (Fill in name and any information you are changing and sign.)

Member _____
Last Name First Name Middle Name Former Name

Birthdate _____ Sex: Male Female Home Telephone (____) Work Telephone (____)
Month/Day/Year

Mailing Address _____
Street, Route, or Box Number, and Apt. Number City State ZIP Code

Spouse _____ Spouse's Birthdate _____
Last Name First Name Middle Name Month/Day/Year

Named Beneficiary(ies)—Primary and Contingent of Your Colorado PERA Account(s)

Changes apply to: PERA Benefit Structure Account DPS (Denver Public Schools) Benefit Structure Account
 Apply to Both Accounts

Note: If you do not check a box, the beneficiary changes will be made to both defined benefit accounts, if applicable.

Primary Beneficiary(ies):

Name Relationship SSN Birthdate

Street, Route, or Box Number, and Apt. Number City State ZIP Code

Name Relationship SSN Birthdate

Street, Route, or Box Number, and Apt. Number City State ZIP Code

Contingent Beneficiary(ies):

Name Relationship SSN Birthdate

Street, Route, or Box Number, and Apt. Number City State ZIP Code

Name Relationship SSN Birthdate

Street, Route, or Box Number, and Apt. Number City State ZIP Code

Member Signature _____ Date _____

***** TO BE COMPLETED BY EMPLOYER FOR NEW EMPLOYEES ONLY *****

Employer No. _____ Employer Name _____ Date _____

Starting Salary _____ Job Title _____ Date Employed _____

