

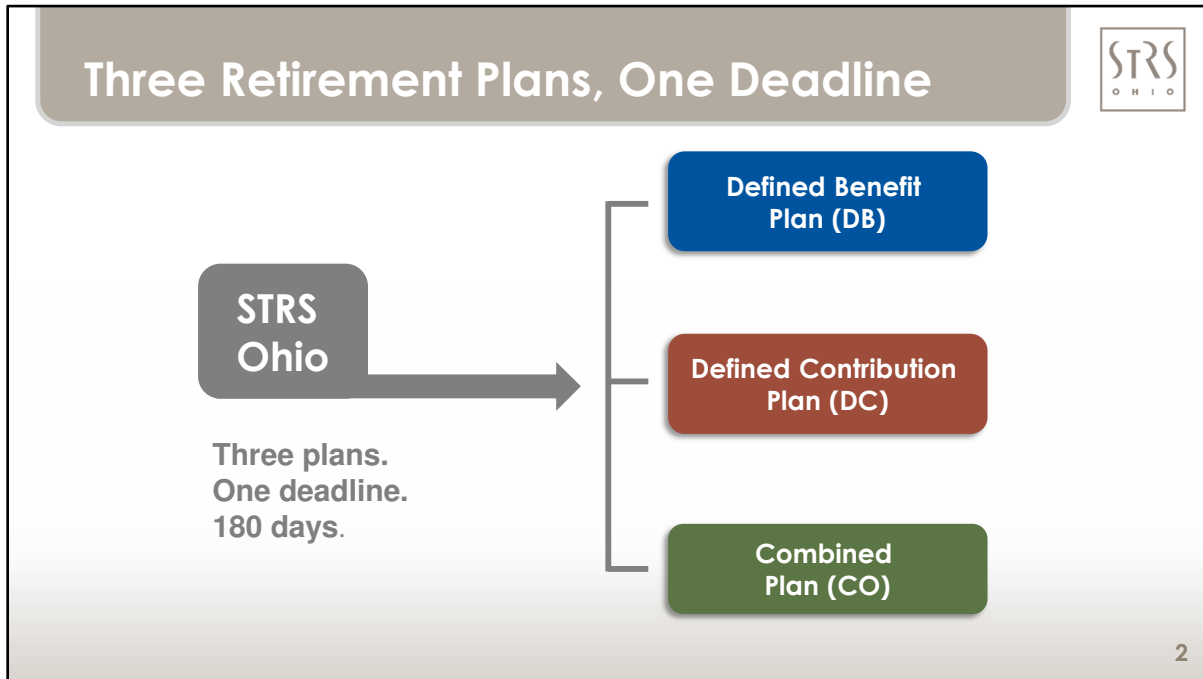


# Plan Selection Details and Resources

K-12 Educators and Part-Time Higher Education Faculty




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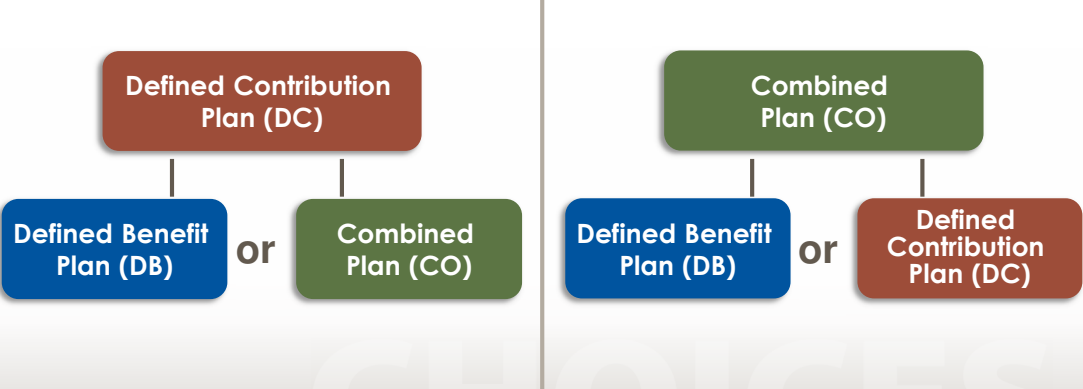


As a new K–12 educator or part-time higher education faculty member, you have 180 days from your first day of paid service to choose one of three STRS Ohio retirement plans — the Defined Benefit Plan, Defined Contribution Plan or Combined Plan.

## Plan Reselection Option



- During fifth year of STRS Ohio membership




The diagram illustrates the reselection options available during the fifth year of STRS Ohio membership. It is divided into two main sections by a vertical line. The left section shows a 'Defined Contribution Plan (DC)' (brown box) at the top, which can be reselected to either a 'Defined Benefit Plan (DB)' (blue box) or a 'Combined Plan (CO)' (green box). The right section shows a 'Combined Plan (CO)' (green box) at the top, which can be reselected to either a 'Defined Benefit Plan (DB)' (blue box) or a 'Defined Contribution Plan (DC)' (brown box). The word 'or' is placed between the two options in each section. The word 'CHOICES' is faintly visible in the background of the diagram area.

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If you choose the Defined Contribution Plan or Combined Plan as a new STRS Ohio member, you can reselect your retirement plan during your fifth year of membership. At that time, you may change to one of the other two STRS Ohio plan options or remain in your current plan. Your plan selection will then be permanent.

## Important Considerations



	Defined Benefit Plan	Defined Contribution Plan	Combined Plan
Investments selected by you		✓ (entire account)	✓ (defined contribution portion)
Predictable monthly retirement benefit	✓		✓ (defined benefit portion)
Greatest portability		✓	
Greatest investment risk		✓	
Disability and survivor benefits during career*	✓		✓
Access to health care coverage in retirement*	✓		✓

\* Upon meeting eligibility criteria.

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Here are your retirement plan options at a glance and some important considerations.

The Defined Contribution Plan and Combined Plan provide the option to select your own investments.

If you're looking for a more predictable monthly benefit, you may want to consider the Defined Benefit Plan or Combined Plan.

The Defined Contribution Plan offers the greatest portability in moving your funds if you leave your current career. It is also the plan where you would assume the greatest investment risk.

If disability and survivor benefits during your career and access to health care coverage in retirement are important to you, you will find these features in the Defined Benefit Plan and Combined Plan. These features are available to participants in these two plans upon meeting eligibility criteria.

## Indicating Your Choice in Your Online Personal Account



- **To register for online account access**
  - Go to the STRS Ohio website home page
  - Click on “REGISTER”
- **To make your plan selection**
  - Log in to your online account
  - Select “Member Information” (top menu)
  - Select “Retirement Plan Selection” (under Useful Links)
- **Also use your online account to keep your contact information updated**

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As a new STRS Ohio member, it’s important to register for an Online Personal Account where you can access important details about all aspects of your STRS Ohio retirement plan. To register, access the STRS Ohio website home page and click “REGISTER.”

Indicate your plan selection by following just a few simple steps. Log in to your account. Select “Member Information” from the top menu and then “Retirement Plan Selection” under Useful Links. Indicate your selection, and that’s it!

To receive important STRS Ohio account and benefits information, be sure to keep your contact information up to date by using your online account to make necessary changes — especially your mailing address, email and phone number.

## Indicating Your Choice



- **Must be received by STRS Ohio within 180 days**
- **If no selection is indicated**
  - Placed in Defined Benefit Plan
  - No option to reselect your plan during fifth year
- **Your decisions:**
  - STRS Ohio retirement plan selection
  - Investment elections (if selecting Defined Contribution Plan or Combined Plan)

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Your plan selection *must be received* by STRS Ohio within 180 days from your first day of paid service. If your selection is not received by this deadline, under Ohio law you will be placed in the Defined Benefit Plan and remain in that plan for as long as you are an STRS Ohio member. Under the Defined Benefit Plan, there is no plan reselection option when you reach five years of service.

You will need to make a plan selection and, if you choose the Defined Contribution Plan or Combined Plan, you will also need to indicate your investment elections.

## Plan Selection Resources



- **Retirement Plan Options brochure**
  - Includes detailed plan comparison chart
- **Investment Options Guide**
  - Investment options, objectives, top holdings and annual fees
- **Investment Performance Report**



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STRS Ohio mails a retirement plan selection packet to new members which includes:

- A *Retirement Plan Options* brochure with plan details and a comparison chart to use in comparing plan features,
- An *Investment Options Guide* with detailed information about STRS Ohio investment options, objectives, top holdings and annual fees, and
- An *Investment Performance Report* reflecting the historical performance of STRS Ohio investment options over various time periods.

## Plan Selection Resources



- **STRS Ohio website: New Member section**
- **Group Benefits Counseling — New Member Overview**
- **888-227-7877 (toll-free)**

CHOICES

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The STRS Ohio website includes a New Member section where you will find plan descriptions and frequently asked questions.

We offer a Group Benefits Counseling — New Member Overview opportunity. This small group session led by an STRS Ohio benefits counselor includes a review of the retirement plan options and important considerations when making your plan selection. Registration can be completed using your Online Personal Account.

You can also contact us toll-free at 888-227-7877.