Unlike the other investment options offered by STRS Ohio, this option provides a guaranteed interest rate on contributions and transfers made in a given year. In exchange for this protection against any possible negative returns, participants must “lock-in” their contributions and transfers made during the year until the end of a five-year term. The interest rate is paid on the contributions and transfers until the end of the five-year term and is credited to the account on a daily basis. The five-year term begins with the initial investment choice and concludes on the last day of the fifth fiscal year, ending June 30. (The STRS Ohio fiscal year runs from July 1–June 30.)

For example, contributions made between July 1, 2016, and June 30, 2017, are locked in at a 4.25% annual interest rate until June 30, 2021.

At the end of the five-year term, the participant must transfer the accumulated value to other STRS Ohio investment options. If the participant doesn’t make new allocation designations, the accumulated value of the choice automatically rolls into the STRS Target Choice that falls immediately before the participant’s 60th birthday.

**Current Effective Annual Interest Rate:** 4.25%

**Investment Manager**
STRS Ohio

**Composition**
This choice’s diversified assets are divided among domestic and international stocks, real estate, bonds and money market investments. The composition of the STRS Total Guaranteed Return Choice is expected to remain relatively unchanged over time.

**Withdrawal**
Members who leave teaching and elect to “withdraw” their STRS Total Guaranteed Return Choice account before the end of a five-year term will be assessed an early-term withdrawal penalty of 10% of their net asset value (NAV) on all funds that did not go to term. Members, age 50 or older, can avoid the early-term withdrawal penalty by converting the funds to an STRS Ohio annuity.

**Annual Asset Management Fee**
None