

Retirement

OUTLOOK

Get from here to there with all-in-one retirement account access: *One DRS user ID and password gets you where you need to go*

Today’s online world requires us to hold many accounts – and by necessity – maintain many, many user IDs and passwords. Wouldn’t it make life a bit easier if you could access all your retirement accounts with one user ID and password? Now you can!

All-in-one retirement account access (also called single sign-on), allows you to view *all* of your retirement accounts with one user ID and password by logging into DRS online account access. In the past, if you had more than one retirement account – such as a Plan 3 Defined Contribution or Deferred Compensation Program (DCP) account – you were required to log on to each of the accounts separately with a different user ID and password. In some cases, that meant as many as three different user IDs and passwords you had to keep track of.

How to use it

Your existing DRS online account access user ID and password are all you need to get started. If you don’t have one yet, sign up is easy on the DRS website home page: www.drs.wa.gov. Once you’re in, you can select the link for Plan 3, DCP or Judicial Retirement Account (JRA). You will then be automatically logged into the account you selected. If you want to navigate to a different account, first return to DRS’s online account access and make another selection. You must always log in at DRS online account access before you can move between all your retirement accounts. If you start in Plan 3 or DCP, you will not be able to access your other accounts unless you use a separate user ID and password for each of them.



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Manage your retirement accounts your way

If you choose not to log in through DRS online account access, nothing has changed. You may continue to use your Plan 3, DCP, JRA and DRS user IDs and passwords to log in to those accounts as you have in the past. The choice is yours to make.

Questions?

For help with single sign-on, contact DRS at 360-664-7000, or toll-free (outside the Olympia area) at 800-547-6657. For questions about DCP, call Great-West toll-free at 888-327-5596. For Plan 3 account questions, call ICMA-RC toll-free at 888-711-8773.

All-in-one account access

It works when you navigate through the DRS website to your other accounts:

- Log in through **DRS online account access** to move between all your retirement accounts with one user ID and password.
- You may maintain the user IDs and passwords you currently have for Plan 3 or DCP if you wish to go directly to either of those accounts without entering through DRS online account access.
- You cannot use all-in-one account access if you log in directly to your Plan 3 or DCP account.

Annual statements now available for education employees

Annual retirement statements for the 2011-2012 school year are now available. To view or print your statement, login to “Your Retirement Account” on the DRS home page. If you haven’t set up an account yet, simply click the “Sign Up” button and follow the instructions.

If you work for one of the following employers, your statement is now available:

- Public School Districts
- Higher Education Institutions
- Washington State Center for Childhood Deafness and the School for the Blind

2013

TRS Plan 3 members may change contribution rates in January

The arrival of January brings an opportunity for TRS Plan 3 members to change their retirement contribution rates. If you are a TRS Plan 3 member and you decide to change your contribution rate you may do so between January 1 and January 31. You’ll need to complete the TRS Plan 3 **Contribution Rate Change form**.

Retirement planning

It's never too early to start planning for retirement. Whether you're nearing the end of your career in public employment, or you've only just begun, there's no time like the present to come up with a plan.

To help you to do just that, DRS has created a series of brief retirement planning videos that explore different aspects of retirement planning. Check out the [video page](#) today and be sure to follow the links to even more planning resources.



January plan transfers

Eligible Plan 2 members may transfer to Plan 3 in January

If one of the circumstances below applies to you, you may transfer to Plan 3 during the month of January:

- PERS Plan 2 state or higher education employees who established membership before March 2, 2002
- PERS Plan 2 local government employees who established membership before September 1, 2002
- SERS and TRS Plan 2 members hired before July 1, 2007

If you'd like to transfer, you need to complete a [Member Information form](#) and give it to your employer between January 1 and January 31. And keep in mind: the decision to transfer to Plan 3 is irrevocable.

Homepage refresh

Based on feedback from customers, we've given the DRS home page a new look. The new home page features easy access to your retirement account, information for new members, those interested in the Deferred Compensation Program, and members nearing retirement. You'll also find sections featuring Popular Links, What's New, and much more...

We're always looking for ways to make the site even more user-friendly, so if you haven't had a chance to see the home page yet, take a look and let us know what you think.



If you have a couple of minutes, take a brief survey (there's a link on the home page) and let us know how the new look works for you. You can also send suggestions to: Communications@drs.wa.gov.

New law allows same-sex marriage

Same-sex spouses of state retirement system members are eligible for the same benefits as opposite-sex spouses under a new law that took effect last month.

The state's Civil Marriage and Domestic Partnership law went into effect Dec. 6. The law, which legalizes same-sex marriage in Washington, was ratified when voters approved Referendum 74 in the November General Election.

The law entitles all spouses (regardless of gender) to rights and benefits provided in the retirement systems and plans.

Same-sex marriages are not recognized in federal law, so there may be differences in how taxes are handled at the federal level. Please consult your tax advisor if you have questions.

If you are currently part of a state-registered domestic partnership, there are a few things you need to know.

On June 30, 2014, the definition of domestic partner is changing:

- Only partnerships where at least one member is 62 or older will continue to qualify as domestic partnerships.
- Same-sex partnerships where both parties are younger than 62 will convert into marriages unless the partnership is dissolved or the partners marry before June 30, 2014.



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