

UPGRADING to Serve You



DRS is upgrading your services to make your retirement planning easier.

March 4, Empower Retirement will be the new record keeper for PERS, SERS and TRS Plan 3 accounts.

The upgrades are automatic.
You do not need to do anything.

Your fund investment options will remain the same.

There will be a transition period (blackout) Feb. 22 to March 4; access to your Plan 3 retirement account will be limited.

Visit www.drs.wa.gov/upgrade to find the most recent information on the upgrades we're making for you.

See inside for more information.



Upgrading to serve you

At DRS, your retirement success is important to us. To better serve you, we are upgrading many of the tools and resources we offer. Part of the upgrade is the selection of a single service provider to perform recordkeeping for Plan 3 and the Deferred Compensation Program (DCP).

On March 4, Empower will replace ICMA-RC as the record keeper for PERS, SERS and TRS Plan 3 accounts. You will see updates to the website and call center services when the transition period ends March 4. DRS and Empower share a goal — to make your retirement planning easier by upgrading the tools and resources you use to manage your retirement now and in the future.

What will March look like?



As a Plan 3 member, you will have a new website with a new user interface when you log in. The calculators and planning resources available to you will also be new.



You will be able to log in to your Plan 3 account by going to www.drs.wa.gov/oa. If you have not already registered for online account access, we encourage you to do so now.



Many of the Plan 3 forms and publications will have a new look.



Starting 8 am March 4 (Pacific Time), you will be able to make account changes by contacting Empower.

What should I do now?

The upgrades are automatic, so you don't need to do anything. But if you would like to follow the upgrades as they take place, use these resources:

- Visit the online resource center to stay informed throughout the upgrade.
www.drs.wa.gov/upgrade
- Register for online account access.
www.drs.wa.gov/oa

Customers receiving payments:

We will send you a mailing confirming the current bank information and tax withholding elections that we have on file for you.



Will the upgrade affect my account access?

To ensure accurate processing and verification of your account, a transition period will occur between 1 pm Feb. 22 and 8 am March 4 (Pacific Time). In the financial industry, this transition period is known as a blackout.

While you will be able to view your Plan 3 online account information during the blackout, your ability to make changes will be limited. Your money will remain invested in the funds you have selected. Once the transition ends March 4, you will be able to make changes as usual.





Important dates

February 2016

- 22** The transition period will begin 1 pm Feb. 22 and end 8 am March 4 (Pacific Time). Your retirement balance will be transferred from ICMA-RC to Empower. During this time, access to your Plan 3 account will be limited. We recommend you make any changes before the transition period.
- 26** The ICMA-RC Plan 3 retirement website will show a balance of \$0 due to fund information transferred to Empower. (Log in to your ICMA-RC account to view/print account history through May 2016.)
-

March 2016

- 04** At 8 am Pacific Time, the transition period will end. You will experience a new Plan 3 and DCP website through Empower. You will be able to log in to your account to view the new tools and menu options.
-

May 2016

- 31** This will be the last day to access your ICMA-RC account. If you want copies of your old statements or account history, download them before the new year. Access your ICMA-RC account through www.drs.wa.gov/oa.

FAQ

What is happening?

DRS is upgrading many of the tools and resources we offer. Part of the upgrade is the selection of a single record keeper for Plan 3 and the Deferred Compensation Program (DCP). On March 4, Empower Retirement will replace ICMA-RC as the record keeper for Plan 3. Empower is already the record keeper for DCP.

What do I need to do?

Nothing. The upgrades are automatic. You can find more information on the DRS website at www.drs.wa.gov/upgrade. You can also register for online account access at www.drs.wa.gov/oa.

Will my investments change?

No. Your fund investment options will remain the same.

Why is this upgrade happening?

These upgrades are part of DRS' ongoing commitment to continue building innovative retirement resources for you.

Will my account be unavailable at any time during the upgrade?

Between 1 pm Feb. 22 and 8 am March 4 (Pacific Time), access to your account will be limited. Full access will be restored March 4.

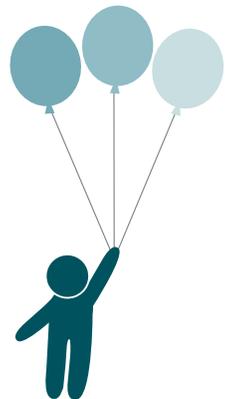
How will the change affect retiree payments?

It won't. Retiree payments will continue as scheduled.

What if I have more questions?

For more information, visit the upgrade resource center at www.drs.wa.gov/upgrade or contact our specialists at **360-664-7062** or **800-547-6657, option 5.**

UPGRADING
to Serve You



Department of Retirement Systems
PO Box 48380
Olympia, WA 98504-8380
360.664.7000
800.547.6657
www.drs.wa.gov