

**Retirement Quick Reference Sheet**  
**from the [MTRS website](#)**  
**and adapted from the Cambridge Education Association**

<b><u>MTRS Tier 1 Membership % Chart</u></b> (established membership <b>before 4/2/2012</b> )	<b><u>MTRS Tier 2 Membership % Chart</u></b> (established membership <b>after 4/2/2012</b> )
<p><b>Regular Formula:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must have at least 20 years of creditable service at any age.</li></ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be age 55+ with AT LEAST 10 years of creditable service.</li></ul> <p><b>Retirement Plus Formula:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must have AT LEAST 30 years of creditable service (at least 20 years must be with MTRS or Boston Retirement Service as a teacher).</li><li>• There is no minimum age requirement</li></ul>	<p><b>Regular Formula:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be age 60+</li><li>• Must have AT LEAST 10 years of creditable service.</li></ul> <p><b>Retirement Plus Formula:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be age 60+ to collect a pension</li><li>• Must have AT LEAST 30 years of creditable service (at least 20 years must be with MTRS or Boston Retirement Service as a teacher).</li><li>• Contribution Rates Explained</li><li>• Percentage amounts deducted based on your election status</li></ul>

**Important Reminders**

**\*If you get married or divorced, be sure to update your beneficiary(ies)!**

**\*It can take up to ONE YEAR to receive a copy of your Years of Creditable Service. Plan accordingly!**

**MTRS Contact Info:**

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[mtrs.state.ma.us](http://mtrs.state.ma.us)**

## Pension Options at Retirement

### **Option A** (highest allowance):

- No continuing survivor benefits.
  - Surviving spouse option for reduced benefits if a member dies within 30 days of effective retirement date).
- Your beneficiary **WILL NOT** receive any balance remaining in your annuity account.

### **Option B** (1% less than Option A):

- One-time, lump-sum payment of the balance, if any, remaining in member's annuity savings account.

### **Option C** (9-11% less than Option A):

- Monthly benefit (2/3rds) paid to a survivor for the remainder of their life.
  - *Note: beneficiary must be the member's parent, child, sibling, spouse, or unmarried former spouse.*

### **Check Your RetirementPlus Status:**

1. Log into your [MTRS account](#)
2. Select the Retirement Account tab on the left side of the screen.
3. Select MTRS Membership and Account Summary.
4. Under Membership information look for RetirementPlus status.

You can also check your paycheck. If it says 11%, you should be in Retirement Plus, but if it says 9% + 2%, then you are not.

### **Purchasing Creditable Years of Service**

1. You can purchase prior teaching service time that is not currently part of your MTRS creditable service. The types of teaching services that can be purchased are listed below with links to their appropriate applications.
2. Purchase the years of service earlier to avoid having to pay higher interest.
3. Any amount owed on a buyback must be paid in full before retirement.
  - a. Other MA public service with the MTRS or a MA town, city, state, county or regional authority, during which...
    - i. You were NOT a member of a MA contributory retirement system (Other Massachusetts public service purchase application)

- ii. You WERE a member of a MA contributory retirement system, and after which, you withdrew your funds (known as a “refund buyback”) ([Prior refunded service with a Massachusetts contributory retirement system](#))
- b. [Substitute, Temporary, or Part-time public school teaching](#)
- c. [Out-of-state public school teaching](#)
- d. [Overseas dependent school teaching](#)
- e. [Vocational educational work](#)
- f. [Nonpublic school teaching in MA publicly-funded school](#)
- g. [Peace Corps service](#)

\*qualifiers regarding service prior to 1973 are not included here but are listed on the website for anyone who needs to reference that information.