FRS EMPLOYER Newsletter



Fourth Quarter, October 2025

Review and Update Your Retirement **Coordinator Contact**

Maintaining accurate and up-to-date contact information for retirement coordinators is crucial, should you need to reach them. Any communication regarding the Investment Plan and Pension Plan will go to the most recent Retirement Coordinator listed. As an employer, it is your responsibility to regularly review and update this information to avoid any disruptions.

If you have determined that an update is needed after reviewing the information via FRS Online, you can follow this process:

Submit a request on agency letterhead to update the retirement coordinator. The request must be signed by the agency head or other position of authority and include the following information:

- Agency number
- Full name of the retirement coordinator who should be listed
- Email address
- Phone number

The request should be sent to enrollment@dms.fl.gov. Once received, the Division of Retirement will reach out to complete the setup.

By taking the time to regularly review and update this information, along with addresses (email and postal), employers can ensure smooth communication and efficient management with the FRS. Make it a priority to update contact information so your coordinators do not miss out on important communications.



Reminder: Senior Management Service Class Reassessment Window

In the April 2025 FRS Employer Newsletter, information was provided regarding the six-month window to allow local agencies to reassess and remove currently designated Senior Management Service Class (SMSC) positions from the class. As a reminder, this window opened on July 1, 2025 and will close on December 31, 2025. To review your agency's SMSC Positions Report, you can log in to FRS Online at https://frs.fl.gov/#/login. If you have any questions regarding the SMSC reassessment window, please contact the Enrollment Section at the Division of Retirement at enrollment@dms.fl.gov.

Not Certifying New Employees' Retirement Status Could Cost You

Your organization and the member may be jointly liable for the repayment of any retirement benefits paid if you hire a retiree in violation of the termination requirements.

To certify that your new hires have not retired from any State of Florida-administered retirement plan or concluded participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) within the preceding six calendar months, 2 have them sign and date an FRS **Employment Certification Form.** Keep the signed form in the employee's personnel file. Do not send it to the FRS unless you are asked to do so. You can verify if your new hire has retired by reviewing the "Retirement Distributions" report while logged in to FRS Online as an employer. Periodically reviewing the Global Member Search while logged in to FRS Online as an employer will also help you spot reemployment violations for new hires and current employees (including temporary employees).

If you have any questions, please call the MyFRS Financial Guidance Line toll-free at 1-866-446-9377, Option 2 (TRS 711).

- An employee is considered retired if they have received any benefits (other than a withdrawal of employee contributions) under the Pension Plan, including DROP, or if they have taken any distribution (including a rollover or refund of employee contributions) from the Investment Plan, or other state-administered retirement programs offered by state universities (SUSORP), state community colleges (SCCSORP), state government for senior managers (SMSOAP), or local governments for senior managers.
- See these reemployment tables for specific reemployment dates: Pension Plan Reemployment Table, Investment Plan Reemployment Table, DROP Reemployment Table, SUSORP, SMSOAP & SCCSORP Reemployment Table.



What Is the Default Retirement Plan for New Hires with Prior FRS Service?

The current defaults (shown in the table to the right) apply to all FRS members initially enrolled on or after January 1, 2018. This could also apply to employees initially enrolled in the FRS prior to January 1, 2018 if:

• They did not have a plan choice prior to the establishment of the Investment Plan.



· They terminated employment during their initial plan choice election window without making an election.

Members who did not make an election during their previous employment or who were not employed at the time the Investment Plan was established still have two elections remaining.

For example, Mary was an FRS employee from January 1998 to July 2001. She was enrolled in the Pension Plan (which was the only retirement plan available at that time). Mary returned to FRS employment in October 2023 and, because she never had an opportunity to choose between the Pension Plan and Investment Plan, she receives an election window, a new hire kit, and seven election deadline reminders. Since Mary was previously enrolled in the Pension Plan, she thinks this election does not apply to her. So, she ignores the reminders, does not make an election, and is defaulted into the Investment Plan. When Mary is notified that she is an Investment Plan member, she files a complaint, indicating she should not have had to make an election to remain in the Pension Plan.

New hires and rehires with no active retirement plan election on file will have an election choice period, even those members who were FRS participants in the past. They will be sent a new hire kit with a deadline to make a choice between the Pension Plan and the Investment Plan. Employees will receive an election reminder notification (via email and U.S. mail) each month an election has not been received. Members who do not make an active election will be defaulted into the Investment Plan (or Pension Plan, if they are in the Special Risk Class).

If you have an employee who reaches out to your office with any questions on whether an election is required, please have them call the MyFRS Financial Guidance Line toll-free at 1-866-446-9377, Option 2 (TRS 711) to speak with an EY financial planner.

FRS Defaults as of January 1, 2018

Membership Class		Plan Default
Special Risk Class	•	Pension Plan
All classes (except Special Risk Class)	•	Investment Plan



Include New Employee Email Addresses in Your Retirement Report

When reporting new hires on the monthly retirement report to the Division of Retirement, be sure to provide their valid email addresses. Multiple email reminders are sent to new hires during their initial choice period in addition to the hard-copy reminder letters mailed to their postal mailing address. By receiving members' email addresses, we are also able to target specific correspondence to members.

FRS Employer Survey Results

In May 2025, the FRS conducted a survey of FRS employers to determine employer satisfaction with the MyFRS Financial Guidance Program (including MyFRS, EY, and Alight Solutions*). More than 250 employers responded to the survey.

Survey Highlights





* FRS Investment Plan Administrator



were extremely satisfied/satisfied with the overall quality of the MyFRS Financial Guidance Line, education, and workshop services





Survey Comments and FRS Responses

The employer survey asked what the FRS could do better. Below are some of your suggestions along with responses from the FRS.

What Can the FRS Do Better?

Sometimes it is difficult to quickly locate specific information about the **Investment Plan** on MyFRS.com. When a search is performed, it seems the default is to provide information about the Pension Plan.

Employees always ask me about getting their PIN number. Is there any way you can add that to the FRS homepage?

FRS Response

At the top of the MyFRS.com homepage, there is a link for "FRS Programs." This link will take you to a listing of the FRS plans offered, as well as other retirement plans that might be available to certain employees. Click the link in the box titled "Investment Plan" to see an overview of the Investment Plan, as well as links to other pages on the MyFRS.com website with more information about the Investment Plan.

At the bottom of the MyFRS.com homepage under "NEED HELP?" there is a "Request PIN" link that will take the user to the Account Help page to request their PIN. They will be asked specific questions for verification purposes. Once completed, a PIN reminder will be sent either via regular U.S. mail or by SMS/text.

Upcoming 1st Election Deadlines

Making an active retirement plan choice by the election deadline is the best way for members to ensure they participate in their preferred plan. Members should be encouraged to make an active election even if their preferred plan is the default. Receiving a new hire kit and election reminder means the member is in their retirement plan choice period and must make an active election or they will be defaulted into the Investment Plan (or Pension Plan, if they are in the Special Risk Class).

Deadline dates and times apply to all members, no matter how they submit their retirement plan choice. To confirm a new hire's deadline, call the FRS Employer Assistance Line at 1-866-377-2121, Option 3, or refer to the member's benefit comparison statement.

What Happens If a Member Misses the Deadline?

A member whose retirement plan choice is not received by their 1st Election deadline will be enrolled in the default plan based on their membership class, as shown at right.

Continues on next page.



Plan Defaults¹

Membership Class		Plan Default
Special Risk Class	•	Pension Plan
All classes (except Special Risk Class)	•	Investment Plan

1st Election Deadlines

Month of Hire	Enrollment Deadline ²
January 2025	September 30, 2025
February 2025	October 31, 2025
March 2025	November 26, 2025
April 2025	December 31, 2025
May 2025	January 30, 2026
June 2025	February 27, 2026
July 2025	March 31, 2026
August 2025	April 30, 2026
September 2025	May 29, 2026
October 2025	June 30, 2026
November 2025	July 31, 2026
December 2025	August 31, 2026

¹ Applies to members initially enrolled in the FRS on or after January 1, 2018.

² By 4:00 p.m. ET.

Upcoming 1st Election Deadlines — continued

What About Members with Prior Pension Plan Service?

The plan defaults shown on the previous page apply to any members who did not submit a retirement plan choice prior to January 1, 2018 or did not have a plan choice period — even if they were previously enrolled in the FRS. Here's an example:

- April 1, 1999 The member initially enrolls in the FRS. (At that time, the Pension Plan was the only retirement program available, so no retirement plan choice was made.)
- May 2001 The member terminates employment.
- **September 1, 2025** The member returns to work. (The enrollment deadline based on the member's month of hire is May 29, 2026, by 4:00 p.m. ET.)
- May 29, 2026 No election is received for this member.
- June 1, 2026 The member will be enrolled in the default plan based on their membership class. If enrolled in the Investment Plan, the member's prior Pension Plan service will be transferred to the Investment Plan as an opening account balance, which is subject to the Pension Plan's vesting provisions.



Public Records

The State Board of Administration of Florida (SBA) is responsible for maintaining member records relevant to the Investment Plan. The Division of Retirement (Division) within the Florida Department of Management Services is responsible for maintaining agency and member records relevant to the Pension Plan and certain records for the Investment Plan.

All retirement records are available to the public pursuant to Florida's Public Records Law, **Chapter 119**, Florida Statutes, with the exception of those records specifically exempted by law under ss. 121.031(5), 121.4501(19) and 119.071, Florida Statutes.

Requests to review records or obtain copies of records may be made to either or both of the following, depending on which records are being requested:

OR

Pension Plan

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT SERVICES **DIVISION OF RETIREMENT**

PO Box 9000 Tallahassee, FL 32315-9000

Email: REP@DMS.FL.Gov

Investment Plan

NELL BOWERS STATE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION 1801 Hermitage Boulevard, Suite 100 Tallahassee, FL 32308

Email: PublicRecords@sbafla.com



Additional information is available here.

Attend an FRS Employer Training Workshop

FRS employer training workshops are an excellent opportunity for you and your staff to get an overview of the FRS plans and the various areas, functions, and processes that involve your agency and its employees. View the online workshop calendar for a list of in-person and Zoom workshops being offered.

Upcoming Workshops

Pension Plan

8:30 to 11:30 a.m. ET

November 6, 2025

Investment Plan

1:00 to 4:00 p.m. ET

November 6, 2025



To register:

By phone (in-person or Zoom):

1-866-377-2121, Option 1

Be ready to provide your name, your contact information, the date and time of the workshop you want to attend, and the number of people from your agency who will be attending.

Online:

- Go to the workshop calendar.
- Locate the employer workshop you want to attend (in-person or via Zoom), then register.
- You will receive a confirmation email after registering. Zoom registrants will receive a reminder email the day before the webinar.

You must register separately for each workshop you wish to attend.

Free Financial Planning Workshops for Employees

The following live webinars are free and unlimited for FRS members. To schedule an in-person workshop or live webinar for your FRS employees, please reach out to Angela Ko by email at Angela.Ko@ey.com or by telephone at 201-872-0176.

October 1	Social Security and Your Retirement	10:00 a.m. to Noon		
October 1	Understanding Your Benefits Under the FRS Pension Plan	1:00 to 3:00 p.m.		
October 2	Nearing Retirement in the FRS	10:00 a.m. to Noon		
October 2	Group Health Insurance (state employees & state college employees only)	1:00 to 3:00 p.m.		
ALL TIMES ARE ET				



To register:

By phone:

1-866-446-9377, Option 2

Online:

- Go to the workshop calendar.
- Locate the employee workshop you want to attend (in-person or via Zoom), then register.
- You will receive a confirmation email after registration. Zoom registrants will receive a reminder email the day before the webinar.

Employees must register separately for each workshop they wish to attend.

Home

ChooseMyFRSplan.com Is the Fastest Way to Submit a Retirement Plan Choice

Here are some additional options from next fastest to slowest:



Call the MyFRS Financial Guidance Line at 1-866-446-9377, Option 4 (TRS 711). This is a good option if the employee has questions.



Submit the online General Retirement Plan Enrollment Form.



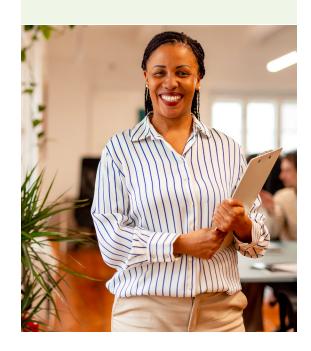
Submit the hard copy form available on MyFRS.com: By Fax: 1-888-310-5559



By Mail: Plan Choice Administrator P.O. Box 785027 Orlando, FL 32878-5027

Help Keep Your Co-Workers Informed

If you know a co-worker who should receive this employer newsletter, send an email to allison.olson@sbafla.com with the co-worker's name, title, agency name, and email address.



Help Keep Members' Names and Addresses Current

Encourage your active, inactive, and retired FRS members to keep their contact information current so they don't miss any important information from you or the FRS.

Investment Plan Members

Active Employees

Names and addresses are automatically updated on the FRS database when you submit your agency's monthly retirement report.

Inactive or Retired

See the online FAQ "How can I change my name or mailing address if retired or terminated from the Investment Plan?"

Pension Plan Members

Active Employees

Names and addresses are automatically updated on the FRS database when you submit your agency's monthly retirement report.

Inactive (Not Currently Employed)

Address Change – Call the DMS, Division of Retirement.

Retired and Receiving a Benefit

Address Change — The retiree can log in to their FRS Online account at **frs.fl.gov** to update their address. If you have questions, call the DMS, Division of Retirement.

Name Change — The member must mail or fax a signed letter to the DMS, Division of Retirement. The letter must be accompanied by a copy of the court order, marriage certificate, or valid driver's license reflecting the member's new name.

How to Reach the DMS, Division of Retirement



Department of Management Services, Division of Retirement P.O. Box 9000 Tallahassee, FL 32315-9000



850-410-2010 (fax)



1-844-377-1888 (toll-free) or 850-907-6500



Resources

FRS Employer Assistance Line

1-866-377-2121 (toll-free)

EY and Alight Solutions representatives are available from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, except holidays.

DMS, Division of Retirement staff are available from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, except holidays.

MyFRS.com Resources

- Recent News Articles Keep up with the latest legislation and more
- Contribution Rates See "Retirement and Health Insurance Subsidy (HIS) Contribution Rates"
- Employer Forms and General Forms Current forms available to print on demand
- Employer Handbooks Technical guides for retirement coordinators, payroll staff, and others who have FRS responsibilities
- FAQs Frequently asked questions and glossary
- Helpful Links/Websites Links to agencies, departments, and other resources
- Laws and Rules Florida Statutes and Administrative Code governing the FRS
- Order Materials Online catalog of printed materials that you can order free of charge
- Public Records State Board of Administration and DMS, Division of Retirement, Public Records Policy
- Publications All available online publications
- Request for Intervention/Final Orders Interventions may include unresolved customer service complaints and allegations of misconduct or misrepresentation
- Videos New hire, educational, and training videos

Are You Using Outdated FRS Forms?

FRS forms are routinely updated throughout the year. To use up-to-date forms and save paper, go to the Forms section on MyFRS.com to download and print the forms as you need them.



