

## Combined Service Annuity (CSA)

### What is the Combined Service Annuity (CSA)?

The CSA provision is a Minnesota law that allows a member to combine their retirement service credit within all the Minnesota public pension plans. The allowable retirement service credit and salary with those plans will be considered jointly at the time of retirement when determining eligibility and level of pension payments.

### What is the benefit of a CSA?

CSA allows you to: meet vesting requirements, achieve eligibility for 62/30 or Rule of 90, and share a Final Average Salary (FAS.) The FAS is a single average salary based on the highest five consecutive years, no matter where earned, and used in the calculation of each pension payment. *Note that these remain separate pensions and the assets cannot be rolled or combined.*

### Do I qualify for a CSA?

To qualify, you must have enough retirement service credit in one or more Minnesota public pension plans to meet vesting requirements. ***If you have withdrawn your contributions from the other funds, you will not receive retirement credit for that service.*** Prior to your retirement date you may be eligible to repay your refund. For information about repaying a refund, contact the Minnesota public pension fund you took a refund from.

### **To be vested using CSA, ALL the following must be true:**

- At least three years of retirement service credit across the Minnesota public pension plans.  
*\*Some PERA plans may require 5-year vesting.*
- At least one-half year of retirement service credit within an additional plan.

*\*Vested membership means that you or your survivors are guaranteed a pension other than a refund of your contributions.*

### What happens when I retire?

The Minnesota public pension plans will effectively “combine” their information about you. For a CSA pension you must terminate all public service and your pension date with each pension plan must be within one year. Applications MUST be made to EACH qualifying plan and in return, pension payments will be made to you from each of the Minnesota public pension plans that you qualify for, using the same FAS. Each plan calculates your pension payment based off their own formula and factors.

### Minnesota Public Pension Plans

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| • <u>St. Paul Teachers' Retirement Fund Association (SPTRFA)</u> | <u>651-642-2550</u> |
| • <u>Minnesota Teachers Retirement Association (TRA)</u>         | <u>651-296-2409</u> |
| • <u>Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA)</u>          | <u>651-296-7460</u> |
| • <u>Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS)</u>                | <u>651-296-2761</u> |