



Employer *Bulletin*

Employer Communication Center 608-266-3285

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etf.wi.gov

WRS Annual *Statement of Benefits*

The Wisconsin Retirement System annual *Statement of Benefits* (dated January 1, 2019) will soon be delivered for employer distribution to active employees with WRS contribution balances as of December 31, 2018. Please distribute these according to the instructions and guidelines below.

Instructions and Guidelines for Statement Distribution

Employers are responsible for distributing the *Statement of Benefits* to their active, WRS-covered employees. You may send the statements to your employees via U.S. mail in the envelopes provided. You must add postage. Please be sure to send statements to employees on leaves of absence.

The *Statement of Benefits* are **confidential**; they should not be opened by anyone but the participant.

If a statement is included for an employee who recently terminated or for whom a termination report has not yet been sent to ETF:

- Mail the statement to the participant.
- Send a termination report to ETF immediately (if one has not already been submitted). Please refer to Chapter 9 “Periodic Employee Transaction Reporting” in the [WRS Administration Manual \(ET-1127\)](#) for methods available for reporting terminations. Your report should include the employee’s employment termination date, applicable WRS earnings and hours of service, and last known address. ETF will then update the employee’s WRS account information.

Note: *Statement of Benefits* for employees working for more than one WRS employer are sent to the employer with the employee’s **most recent WRS begin date or employment category change date**. This is not necessarily the primary employer.

January 1, 2019 *Statement of Benefits* will not be sent to you for:

- Employees who terminated employment. In these cases, ETF will send statements directly to the employee’s mailing address.
- New WRS participants who enrolled in late December 2018 whose first wages were paid in January 2019. These employees will not receive statements because no WRS contributions were paid in 2018.
- Employees who have applied for a retirement benefit.
- Some rehired annuitants who took their initial retirement benefit after January 1, 2018.

Employees Should Carefully Review Statements

The annual *Statement of Benefits* provides WRS participants the opportunity to review important WRS account information that will eventually be used in benefit calculations. Therefore, we ask that you encourage employees to carefully review their statements and the supporting [Explanation of Annual Statement of Benefits \(ET-7333\)](#), available on the ETF website. **Employers are required to provide their employees this link, and a printed copy of this explanation as requested.**

Your employees should contact you for clarification of the WRS information that you have reported to ETF: employment category, earnings and hours worked (ETF converted the hours worked to WRS-creditable service). It is critical that you immediately correct any reporting errors. Please refer to Chapter 11 of the [WRS Administration Manual \(ET-1127\)](#) for instructions and guidance on making prior year account adjustments.

Please notify your employees that after terminating all WRS-covered employment, they must notify ETF of any address changes so they will continue to receive their annual Statement of Benefits (until a benefit is taken) and other communications from ETF.

Updated for 2019: Statement Web Pages

Updated for 2019, is the *Statement of Benefits* set of web pages at:

etf.wi.gov/members/statement/

Please share this web address with your employees, in addition to the explanation. These web pages offer easy access to related documents, including the statement explanations, as well as additional information:

- Interactive *Statement of Benefits*
Choose “Active/Inactive” or “Alternate Payee” to see the correct statement information (*please be sure your employees know they are active employees*). Click on the green icon to see additional information.
- Frequently asked questions
Click on any question to expand the answer.

Special Note for Employers of Protective Category Employees

For protective categories under the WRS, employers have a higher employer-required contribution rate than the employee-required rate. ETF holds these excess contributions in the employer reserve to fund the actuarially determined benefit cost associated with the protective categories higher formula benefit and lower minimum retirement age. The *Annual Statement of Benefits* lists the money purchase balance of the member’s account. The money purchase balance consists of the employee-required contributions plus a matching employer-required contribution. The excess employer-required contributions that an employer pays above the employee-required rate do not appear on the *Annual Statement of Benefits*.

Questions

Employees *and* employers with questions after reviewing the information supplied with the *Statement of Benefits* may contact ETF at 1-877-533-5020.

The Department of Employee Trust Funds does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services or employment. If you are speech or hearing impaired and need assistance, call the Wisconsin Relay Service toll free at 7-1-1 or 1-800-947-3529 (English) 1-800-833-7813 (Español). If you are visually or cognitively impaired, call 1-877-533-5020 or 608-266-3285 locally. We will try to find another way to get the information to you in a usable form.

This *Employer Bulletin* is published by ETF. If you have any questions, please contact the Employer Communications Center toll free at 1-877-533-5020 or locally at 608 266-3285. Employer agents may copy this *Bulletin* for further distribution to other payroll offices, subunits or individuals who may need the information. Copies of the most recent *Employer Bulletins* are available on our Internet site at etf.wi.gov/employers.htm.

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