

Current Members

1. Does AB 340 or AB 197 affect my current benefit formula?

No. You will remain in your existing Tier and your benefit formula will remain the same.

2. Does AB 340 or AB 197 affect what is included in my highest average salary?

Yes. The Board of Retirement has determined that bonuses (regardless of when paid) cannot be included in the highest average salary for anyone retiring after January 1, 2013.

3. Will an in-service vacation cash out still be included in my highest average salary?

Yes. If you are allowed to cash out vacation time, up to the amount you accrue during your highest average salary period, it will be included. Please keep in mind that vacation cash outs require Department Head approval and may be limited by union memorandums of understanding.

4. If I receive a cash out of unused vacation or sick accruals upon termination, will it be included in my highest average salary?

No. There is no change from current rules regarding termination cash outs. They will not be included in highest average salary.

5. If I currently have a reduction in pay, but will be exempt from the reduction for one year prior to my retirement, will that amount of pay be counted in my highest average salary?

Yes. The Board of Retirement affirmed the use of the recapture. Your highest average salary will be based on the actual contributable pay received during your highest average salary period.

6. Will there be a change to the amount I contribute to retirement?

The standard shall be that employees pay at least 50 percent of normal costs. This will be a meet and confer issue. However, AB 340 allows current MOU's to continue.

7. I work for a department or employer that pays all (or part) of my employee contributions, will this practice be allowed to continue or should I expect a change?

The standard shall be that employers not pay any of the required employee contributions. This will be a meet and confer issue. However, AB 340 allows current MOU's to continue.

8. Can I return to work for an employer covered by StanCERA on a part time basis?

If you want to return to work after January 1, 2013, you must wait a minimum of 180 days before you can begin your part time service. Once you are past the required waiting period, you can work up to a maximum of 960 hours per calendar year.

Safety members are exempt from the waiting period. However, they are still limited to the maximum of 960 hours per calendar year.

9. Will disability benefits be changing for current members?

No. Disability benefits will remain unchanged.

10. I work for an employer that allows excess sick leave to be converted to retirement service credit upon retirement. Will this still be allowed?

Yes. If you are employed by Stanislaus County, Superior Court or StanCOG, and you have sick leave accruals in excess of your cash out limit, the excess hours will be converted to retirement service credit upon retirement.

11. Are any of the vesting requirements changing for current members?

No. Vesting requirements will remain unchanged for Tiers 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

12. Will 30 year employees still be allowed to stop making retirement contributions?

Yes. Upon the completion of 30 years of retirement service credit, you will stop contributing into the plan. However, you will continue to accrue retirement service credit.