

# Benefit Structures

This document provides information about the CalSTRS 2% at 60 and CalSTRS 2% at 62 benefit structures for the Defined Benefit Program pursuant to Education Code sections 22146 and 22146.2 and the CB Participant and CB Participant PEPRA benefit structures for the Cash Balance Benefit Program pursuant to Education Code sections 26132 and 26132.5. References to other Education Code (EDC) sections are provided where applicable.

Questions? Contact [EmployerHelp@CalSTRS.com](mailto:EmployerHelp@CalSTRS.com) or send a secure message in the Secure Employer Website. Please include applicable supporting documentation for review.

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## What is a benefit structure?

The California Public Employees’ Pension Reform Act of 2013 (Chapter 296, Statutes of 2012) made significant changes to benefits that primarily affect employees first hired to perform creditable service on or after January 1, 2013. As a result, each CalSTRS program has two benefit structures. These benefit structures determine eligibility for benefits, how benefits are calculated, what types of payments are creditable compensation, and the employee and employer contribution rates. For more information about the differences between benefit structures, see the [CalSTRS Member Handbook](#) available at CalSTRS.com.

## How is a benefit structure determined?

An employee’s benefit structure depends on when they were first hired to perform creditable service. This includes creditable service performed as a nonmember of the Defined Benefit Program or as a nonmember or participant of the Cash Balance Benefit Program. We cannot determine an employee’s hire date for you.

<b>Date first employed to perform creditable service</b>	<b>Defined Benefit Program Benefit Structure</b>	<b>Cash Balance Benefit Program Benefit Structure</b>
<b>Prior to 01/01/2013</b>	DB 2% at 60	CB Participant
<b>On or after 01/01/2013</b>	DB 2% at 62	CB Participant PEPRA

An employee who was a member of an eligible California public retirement system prior to January 1, 2013 and performed service in that other retirement system in the six months prior to performing creditable service under the Defined Benefit Program or Cash Balance Benefit Program is grandfathered into the CalSTRS 2% at 60 or CB Regular benefit structure, respectively. This does not apply to nonmembers of other public retirement systems.

The eligible retirement systems are:

- California Public Employees' Retirement System
- Legislators' Retirement System
- University of California Retirement System
- County retirement systems established under Chapter 3 of Part 3 of Division 4 of Title 3 of the Government Code
- San Francisco Employees' Retirement System

Upon enrollment, our system automatically assigns a benefit structure. Since our system cannot see information from other retirement systems, the system may incorrectly assign the CalSTRS 2% at 62 or CB PEPPRA benefit structure to an employee who is eligible for an earlier benefit structure. You will need to contact us to correct the benefit structure.

### Where do I view an employee's benefit structure?

You can see an employee's benefit structure on the **Employee Maintenance** screen under the **Membership Account** panel.

The screenshot shows the CalSTRS Employee Maintenance interface. The top navigation bar includes the CalSTRS logo, the text 'Employee Maintenance 166863', and '01001 COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION TRN1 - 2.0.578.1 - Green Region'. A user profile dropdown shows 'Welcome Contact, Teresa'. Below the navigation, there are tabs for 'Employee Search' and 'Employee Maintenance 16...'. The main content area is divided into sections: 'Demographic Information', 'Address Information', and 'Membership Account'. The 'Membership Account' section contains a table with the following data:

Benefit Program	Benefit Structure	Membership Date	Hire Date	Status	Sub Status	Status Effective Date
<a href="#">CalSTRS Defined Benefit</a>	DB 2% at 60	12/01/2008	12/01/2008	Active		12/01/2008
<a href="#">CalSTRS Defined Benefit Supplement</a>	DBS 2% at 60	12/01/2008	12/01/2008	Active		12/01/2008

### How do I correct an employee's benefit structure?

Contact [EmployerHelp@CalSTRS.com](mailto:EmployerHelp@CalSTRS.com) or send a secure message in the Secure Employer Website and include documentation supporting that the employee is eligible for an earlier benefit structure. You will need to reverse any contributions transactions with **Benefit Program Member Code Defined Benefit Member (DB1)** and **Cash Balance Member (CB1)** (if using the Contribution File format) or **Member Code Member (1)** (if using the F496 File or Voluntary Deduction File format) before we can correct the employee's benefit structure in the system. You must also wait to submit any additional contribution transactions with contributions until the correction is made. We will notify you when the correction is made so you can re-report the contribution transactions and the system can apply the correct benefit structure.