

## 2. System Benefits

### PERS benefit component comparisons

The primary components and differences among the PERS Tier One and Tier Two programs, the Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan (OPSRP) Pension Program, and the Individual Account Program (IAP) are shown below. Tier One covers members employed before January 1, 1996; Tier Two covers members employed between January 1, 1996 and August 28, 2003; and OPSRP covers members employed on or after August 29, 2003. The IAP contains all member contributions (6% of covered salary) made on and after January 1, 2004.

	Tier One	Tier Two	OPSRP Pension	IAP
Normal retirement age	58 (or 30 yrs); P&F = age 55 or 50 w/25 yrs service	60 (or 30 yrs); P&F = age 55 or 50 w/25 yrs service	65 (58 w/30 yrs); P&F = age 60 or 53 w/25 yrs service	55
Early retirement	55 (50 for P&F)	55 (50 for P&F)	55, if vested	55
Regular account earnings	Guaranteed assumed rate annually (currently 8%)	No guarantee; market returns	Not applicable; no member account	No guarantee; market returns
Variable account earnings	Market returns on 100% global equity portfolio	Market returns on 100% global equity portfolio	Not applicable; no member account	Not applicable
Retirement calculation methods	Money Match, Full Formula, or Formula + Annuity	Money Match or Full Formula	Formula	N/A
Full Formula benefit factor	1.67% general; 2.00% P&F	1.67% general; 2.00% P&F	1.50% general; 1.80% P&F	N/A
Formula + Annuity benefit factor	1.00% general; 1.35% P&F	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lump-sum vacation payout				
Included in covered salary (6%)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes for Tier One and Tier Two only
Included in FAS	Yes	No	No	N/A
Unused sick leave included in FAS	Yes	Yes	No	N/A
Vesting	Contributions in each of 5 yrs or active member at age 50	Contributions in each of 5 yrs or active member at age 50	5 yrs qualifying service or normal retirement age	Immediate
2% maximum annual cost-of-living adjustments after retirement	Can retire through July 1 and receive maximum COLA for the year	Can retire through July 1 and receive maximum COLA for the year	COLA prorated in year of retirement based on retirement date	N/A

P&F = police and firefighters; FAS = final average salary; COLA = cost-of-living adjustment; N/A = not applicable

Note: PERS uses three methods to calculate Tier One and Tier Two retirement benefits: Full Formula, Formula + Annuity (for members who made contributions before August 21, 1981), and Money Match. PERS uses the method (for which a member is eligible) that produces the highest benefit amount. OPSRP Pension benefits are based only on a formula method.