

Frequently Asked Questions about the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP)

What is the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP)?

- DROP is a pension plan program through which you may retire and have your monthly retirement benefits remain in the Florida Retirement System (FRS) Trust Fund instead of being paid directly to you.
- With DROP, you accumulate retirement benefits while you continue to work for up to 60 months (5 years).
- When the DROP period ends, you terminate employment, receive payment of the accumulated DROP benefits, and begin receiving your FRS monthly retirement benefits.

Who is eligible to join DROP?

- To participate in DROP, you must be vested, eligible for normal retirement (based on your years of service or age) and enrolled in the pension plan.
- You may begin DROP participation in the month that you reach your normal retirement date based upon your age or years of service.
- If your 30 year service credit is reached prior to age 57, you have the option to defer participation in DROP.

If you were initially enrolled in the FRS before July 1, 2011, normal retirement date requirements for age or service are:

- *Regular Class, Elected Officers' Class and Senior Management Service Class* – age 62 with at least six years of service but less than 30 years of service, or any age before age 62 with 30 years of service.
- *Special Risk Class* – age 55 with at least six years of special risk service but less than 25 years of special risk service, age 52 with a total of 25 years of special risk service that include up to four years of purchased wartime military service, or any age before age 55 with 25 years of special risk service.

If you were initially enrolled in the FRS on or after July 1, 2011, normal retirement date requirements for age or service are:

- *Regular Class, Elected Officers' Class and Senior Management Service Class* – age 65 with at least eight years of service but less than 33 years of service, or any age before age 65 with 33 years of service.
- *Special Risk Class* – age 60 with at least eight years of special risk service but less than 30 years of special risk service, age 57 with a total of 30 years of special risk service, or any age before age 60 with 30 years of special risk service.

When should I apply for DROP?

You may apply up to six months before reaching your normal retirement date or DROP deferral date. Please contact the Benefits Department to request your DROP application as early as possible. To maximize your time in DROP, the FRS division must receive your DROP application and election forms no later than the last working day of the

month you intend to begin DROP participation. See the [FRS DROP Guide](#) for more information.

How can I get more information?

- Visit the FRS website at www.myfrs.com.
- Read the [Florida Retirement System DROP Guide](#).
- View the [Florida Retirement System DROP video](#).
- Call the MyFRS Financial Guidance Line at **(866) 446-9377** to speak with an FRS representative.
- Contact HR Benefits for an individualized DROP consultation. Send an email to employee.benefits@pinellascounty.org or call (727) 464-4570 to schedule an appointment.