

State and Territorial Retirement Benefits Earned through Peace Corps Service

Some state and territorial governments allow their public employees and/or public school teachers to apply the time they served in the Peace Corps to their state retirement benefits through a buy-back program, thus increasing their retirement benefits. This resource shows which states offer these benefits.

- The term “buy-back” in a retirement system refers to the purchase of credit for service accumulated while the RPCV is/was not a member of that retirement system. Most purchasable credit rewards such factors as “out-of-state service” or “prior service,” service committed before the RPCV’s enrollment in the state retirement system.
- An RPCV “purchases” or “buys” such credit because he or she must recompense the retirement system for those years of accumulated service credit in which the RPCV was not a contributing member to the retirement system.
- Several states now allow retirement system members to purchase generic “air time” that, while not Peace Corps specific, allows up to 5 years of credit.
- This information was accurate as of August 1st, 2019, but these regulations do change frequently. Please use the contact information provided to confirm.

State	Retirement Benefits	Contact Information
Alabama	Public employees: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back. Teachers: Time in the Peace Corps can be bought back.	The Retirement Systems of Alabama (877) 517-0020
Alaska	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back.	Alaska Division of Retirements and Benefits Public Employees Retirement System (800) 821-2251
American Samoa	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back.	ASG Retirement Fund (684) 633-5456
Arizona	Public employees and teachers: Arizona will only allow retirement credits to be purchased if the individual has been previously employed by a federal agency and/or participated in a federal public retirement plan. RPCVs do not accrue federal retirement credit nor are they classified as federal employees.	Arizona State Retirement System (800) 621-3778
Arkansas	Public employees: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back. Teachers: Time in the Peace Corps can be bought back.	Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System (800) 682-7377 Arkansas Teacher Retirement System (501) 682-1517
California	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps can be bought back if you are either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A public agency member (if your employer contracts with CalPERS to provide this option) •A state or school active or inactive member You cannot purchase Peace Corps service credit if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •You're already retired. •You don't have certification of your dates of service. •Your public agency employer does not include this option in its contract. 	California Public Employees' Retirement System (888) 225-7377

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Colorado	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps can be bought back but, because earnings during service are used to measure service, and the Peace Corps stipend is so small, only a little bit of time may be bought back.	Public Employees' Retirement Association (800) 759-7372
Connecticut	Public employees: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back. Teachers: Time in the Peace Corps can be bought back.	Office of the State Comptroller (860) 702-3480 Connecticut Teachers' Retirement Board (800) 504-1102
Delaware	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps can be bought back.	Office of Pensions (302) 739-4208
District of Columbia	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back.	District of Columbia Retirement Board (202) 442-9700
Florida	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back.	Florida Retirement System (866) 446-9377
Georgia	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back.	Georgia Employees' Retirement System (404) 350-6300 Teacher Retirement System of Georgia (404) 352-6512
Guam	Unknown, they did not respond to attempts to contact them.	Government of Guam Retirement Fund (671) 475-8900/01
Hawaii	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back.	Hawaii Employees' Retirement System 808) 586-1735
Idaho	Public employees & teachers: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back.	Idaho Public Employee Retirement System (800) 451-8228
Illinois	Public employees: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back. Illinois Teachers' Retirement (not including Chicago): Time in the Peace Corps can be bought back. Chicago Public Schools teachers: Possibly, it is on a case by case basis.	State Retirement Systems of Illinois (217) 785-7444 Illinois Teachers' Retirement System (Except Chicago) (877) 927-5877 Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund (312) 641-4464
Indiana	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back.	Indiana Public Employees' Retirement Fund (844) 464-6777 Indiana Teachers' Retirement Fund (888) 286-3544
Iowa	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps can be bought back. RPCVs may purchase up to 5 years of IPERS service credit for previous Volunteer service if the RPCV is a vested or retired members of IPERS and has participated in IPERS for at least 5 calendar years.	Iowa Public Retirement System (800) 622-3849 More information
Kansas	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps can be bought back.	Kansas Public Employee Retirement System (888) 275-5737 More information
Kentucky	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps can be bought back.	Kentucky Retirement Systems (800) 928-4646 Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System (800) 618-1687

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Louisiana	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back.	Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System (800) 256-3000 Louisiana Teachers' Retirement System (225) 925-6446 More information
Maine	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps can be bought back. RPCVs may purchase up to 2 years of service credit, but it is expensive, and requires 15 years of service in Maine prior to purchase. MSRS members who terminate service as state employees or teachers prior to their Peace Corps service must return to state employment within one year of completing Peace Corps service.	Maine State Retirement System (207) 512-3100
Maryland	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back.	Maryland State Retirement and Pension System (800) 492-5909
Massachusetts	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps can be bought back, on a case by case basis.	Massachusetts State Board of Retirement (617) 367-7770 (Fill out the form for USPHS and NOAA Corps members) Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement Board (617) 679-6877
Michigan	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back.	Michigan Office of Retirement Services (800) 381-5111
Minnesota	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back.	Minnesota State Retirement System (800)657-5757 Minnesota Teachers Retirement Association (800) 657-3669
Mississippi	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back.	Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi (800) 444-7377
Missouri	Public employees: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back. Teachers: Time in the Peace Corps can be bought back. Peace Corps service is purchasable after 1 year of teaching credit as a member of the PSRS. Requires agency verification of teaching in a public or private school setting.	Missouri State Employees' Retirement System (800) 827-1063 Public School Retirement System of Missouri (800) 392-6848
Montana	Public employees: Time in the Peace Corps can be bought back. Vested members may, at any time prior to retirement, buy membership service and service credit for up to five years of the member's volunteer service in a United States service program, such as the Peace Corps. This type of service purchase is only available to PERS-DBRP members. Teachers: Time in the Peace Corps can be bought back, if the person in question was an education volunteer.	Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration (877) 275-7372 More information Montana Teachers' Retirement System (406) 444-3134 More information

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Nebraska	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back.	Nebraska Public Employees Retirement System (800) 245-5712
Nevada	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back. After five years of service in the system, however, members are eligible to purchase up to an additional 5 years of service credit. You may purchase as little as one day or any combination of years, months and days provided it doesn't exceed the five year maximum.	Public Employees' Retirement System of Nevada (866) 473-7768
New Hampshire	State Retirement: Members who leave NHRS-covered employment to enter directly into the Peace Corps and return to NHRS-covered employment within one year following termination of the Peace Corps service may be eligible to purchase the lesser of (a) two years, (b) the member's actual period of Peace Corps or (c) five years minus the period of nonqualified service credit purchased.	New Hampshire Retirement System (603) 410-3500
New Jersey	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back.	New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits (609) 292-7524
New Mexico	Public employees: Time in the Peace Corps can be bought back, but it is on a case by case basis. Teachers: Time in the Peace Corps can be bought back.	New Mexico Public Employees' Retirement Association (800) 342-3422 New Mexico Educational Retirement Board (866) 691-2345
New York	Public employees (except New York City): Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back. New York City: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back. Teachers: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back.	New York State and Local Retirement System (866) 805-0990 New York City Employees' Retirement System (NYCERS) (877) 669-2377 New York State Teachers' Retirement System (800) 348-7298
North Carolina	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back.	North Carolina Total Retirement Plans (877) 627-3287
North Dakota	Public employees: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back. Teachers: Time in the Peace Corps can be bought back.	North Dakota Public Employees' Retirement System (800) 803-7377 North Dakota Retirement and Investment Office (800) 952-2970
Northern Mariana Islands	Unknown, they did not respond to multiple attempts to contact them.	The CNMI Retirement fund went bankrupt, legal wrangling is ongoing. The CNMI website is under construction. No contact information is available.
Ohio	Public employees: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back. Teachers: Time in the Peace Corps can be bought back. Non-teaching school employees: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back.	Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (800) 222-7377 State Teachers' Retirement System of Ohio (888) 227-7877 School Employees Retirement System of Ohio (866) 280-7377

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Oklahoma	Public employees: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back. Teachers: Time in the Peace Corps can be bought back. An active, contributing member of TRS may obtain out-of-state service credit for qualified employment while in the Peace Corps for at least 6 months.	Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System (800) 733-9008 Oklahoma Teachers' Retirement System (405) 521-2387
Oregon	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back.	Oregon Public Employees Retirement System (888) 320-7377
Pennsylvania	Public employees: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back. Teachers: Time in the Peace Corps can be bought back. To apply, you and a personnel officer of the agency must complete the Application for Credit for United States Government Service (PSRS-600) (Link in next column) The personnel officer must also attach a copy of the job description.	Pennsylvania State Employee's Retirement System (717) 787-8540 Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System (888) 773-7748 More information
Puerto Rico	Unknown, but unlikely.	Administración de los Sistemas de Retiro de los Empleados del Gobierno y la Judicatura (787) 777-1500, (787) 754-4545
Rhode Island	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps can be bought back. Active state and teacher members of the ERSRI can purchase up to 4 years of optional service credit for Peace Corps service at interest based cost.	Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island (ERSRI) (401) 222-2203 More information
South Carolina	Public employees and teachers: Unknown, but likely. May be possible to purchase Peace Corps service under "public service" category.	South Carolina Retirement Systems (803) 737-6800 More information
South Dakota	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps can be bought back. RPCVs who are current, contributing members to SDRS may purchase up to 5 years of Peace Corps service at any time, contingent on documentation.	South Dakota Retirement System (SDRS) (605) 773-3731
Tennessee	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back.	Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (800) 922-7772
Texas	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back; however, members may purchase up to 3 years of "air time" service credit.	Employees Retirement System (ERS) (877) 275-4377 More information Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) (800) 223-8778
U.S. Virgin Islands	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back.	Government Employees Retirement System of the Virgin Islands (340) 776-7703
Utah	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps can be bought back. Peace Corps service is purchasable after 4 years in Utah's system.	Utah Retirement Systems (800) 695-4877 More information
Vermont	Public employees and teachers: Up to 5 years of time in the Peace Corps can be bought back after 15 years of service.	Vermont State Employees' and Teachers' Retirement System (802) 828-2301 More information
Virginia	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps can be bought back.	Virginia Retirement System (888) 827-3847
Washington	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back.	Washington State Department of Retirement Systems (DRS) (800) 547-6657



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West Virginia	Public employees: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back. Teachers: Possibly. TRS members may be able purchase service credit for "public" school teaching service performed in another state, or for service as a teacher for employment with the federal government of the United States.	West Virginia Consolidated Public Retirement Board (800) 654-4406 More information
Wisconsin	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps can be bought back.	Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds (877) 533-5020 More information
Wyoming	Public employees and teachers: Time in the Peace Corps cannot be bought back, but currently employed, vested members have a one-time opportunity to purchase up to five years of qualified service.	Wyoming Retirement System (307) 777-7691