

2017 Information

Town of Bellingham - Public School, MA

403(b) Plan

The 403(b) Plan is a valuable retirement savings option available through Town of Bellingham - Public School, MA. This notice provides a brief explanation of the provisions, policies and rules that govern the 403(b) Plan.

Plan administration services for the 403(b) plan are provided by TSA Consulting Group, Inc. (TSACG). Visit the TSACG website (tsacg.com) for information about enrollment in the plan, investment product providers available, distributions, exchanges or transfers, 403(b) loans, and rollovers.

Eligibility

Most employees with the exception of private contractors, trustees, school board members, an employee who normally works the equivalent of 1000 hours or less in a working year except as otherwise provided under applicable regulations, and/or student workers are eligible to participate in the 403(b) plan immediately upon employment. Employees may make voluntary elective deferrals to the 403(b) plan. Participants are fully vested in their contributions and earnings at all times.

Employee Contributions

Upon enrollment, participants designate a portion of their salary that they wish to contribute to their traditional 403(b) account up to their maximum annual contribution amount on a pre-tax basis, thus reducing the participant's taxable income. Salary deferral contributions to the participant's 403(b) account are made from income paid through the employer's payroll system. Taxes on contributions and any earnings are deferred until the participant withdraws their funds.

The Internal Revenue Service regulations limit the amount participants may contribute annually to tax-advantaged retirement plans and imposes substantial penalties for violating contribution limits. TSACG monitors 403(b) plan contributions and notifies the employer in the event of an excess contribution.

The Basic Contribution Limit for 2017 is \$18,000.

Additional provisions allowed if selected by the employer:

The Service-Based Catch Up Amount

The special catch-up provision allows participants to make additional contributions of up to \$3,000 if, as of the preceding calendar year, the participant has completed 15 or more full years of employment with the current employer, not averaged over \$5,000 per year in annual contributions, and has not utilized catch-up contributions in excess of the aggregate of \$15,000. For a detailed explanation of this provision, please visit www.tsacg.com.

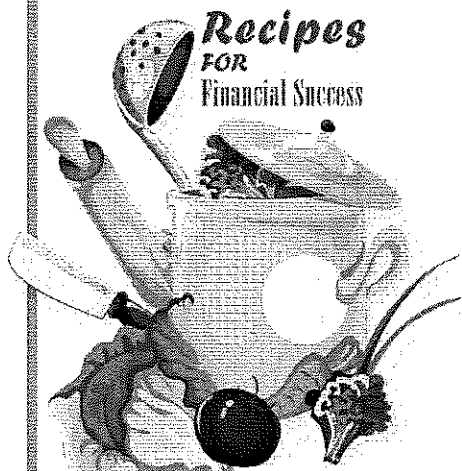
Age-Based Additional Amount

Participants who are age 50 or older any time during the year qualify to make an additional contribution of up to \$6,000.

Enrollment

Employees who wish to enroll in the employer's Supplemental 403(b) Retirement Plan must first select the provider and investment product best suited for their 403(b) account. Upon establishment of the account with the selected provider, a "Salary Reduction Agreement" (SRA) form and any disclosure forms must be completed and submitted to the employer. This form authorizes the employer to withhold 403(b) contributions from the employee's pay and send those funds to the Investment Provider on their behalf. A SRA must be completed to start, stop or modify contributions to a 403(b) account. Unless otherwise notified by your employer, you may enroll and/or make changes to your current contributions anytime throughout the year.

Please note: The total annual amount of a participant's contributions must not exceed the Maximum Allowable Contribution (MAC) calculation. For convenience, a MAC calculator is available on the Internet at www.tsacg.com.



Investment Provider Information

A current list of authorized 403(b) Investment Providers and current employer forms are available on the employer's specific Web page at www.tsacg.com.

Plan Distribution Transactions

Distribution transactions may include any of the following depending on the employer's Plan Document: loans, transfers, rollovers, exchanges, hardships, unforeseen financial emergency withdrawals or distributions. Participants may request these distributions by completing the necessary forms obtained from the provider and plan administrator as required. All completed forms should be submitted to the plan administrator for processing.

403(b) Plan Loans

Participants may be eligible to borrow their 403(b) plan accumulations depending on the provisions of their 403(b) account contract and provisions of the employer plan. If loans are available, they are generally granted for a term of five years or less (general-purpose loans). Loans taken to purchase a principal residence can extend the term beyond five years depending on the provisions of their 403(b) account contract and provisions of the employer. Details and terms of the loan are established by the provider. Participants must repay their loans through monthly payments as directed by the provider. Prior to taking a loan, participants should consult a tax advisor.

Plan-to-Plan Transfers

A plan-to-plan transfer is defined as the movement of a 403(b) account from a previous plan sponsor's plan and retaining the same account with the authorized investment provider under the new plan sponsor's plan.

Rollovers

Participants may move funds from one qualified plan account, i.e. 403(b) account, 401(k) account or an IRA, to another qualified plan account at age 59½ or when separated from service. Rollovers do not create a taxable event.

Distributions

Retirement plan distributions are restricted by IRS regulations. A participant may not take a distribution of 403(b) plan accumulations without penalty unless they have attained age 59½ or separated from service in the year in which they turn 55 or older. In most cases, any withdrawals made from a 403(b) account are taxable in full as ordinary income.

Exchanges

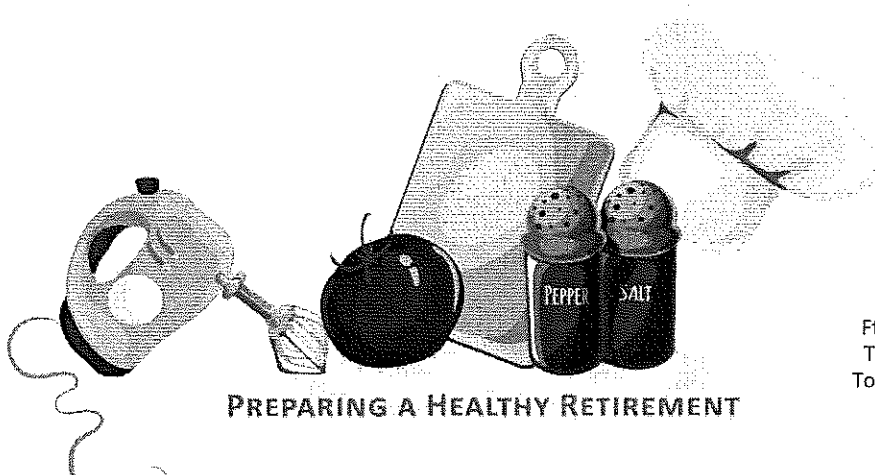
Participants may exchange account accumulations from one 403(b) investment provider to another 403(b) investment provider that is authorized under the plan; however, there may be limitations affecting exchanges, and participants should be aware of any charges or penalties that may exist in individual investment contracts prior to exchange.

Hardship Withdrawals

Participants may be able to take a hardship withdrawal in the event of an immediate and heavy financial need. According to IRS Safe Harbor regulations, to be eligible for a hardship withdrawal, a participant must have exhausted all other available financial resources. The eligibility requirements to receive a Hardship withdrawal are provided on the Hardship Withdrawal Disclosure form at www.tsacg.com. After receiving a hardship withdrawal, the participant may not make voluntary contributions to any employer sponsored retirement plan for a period of six months.

Employee Information Statement

Participants in defined contribution plans are responsible for determining which, if any, investment vehicles best serve their retirement objectives. The 403(b) plan assets are invested solely in accordance with the participant's instructions. The participant should periodically review whether his/her objectives are being met, and if the objectives have changed, the participant should make the appropriate changes. Careful planning with a tax advisor or financial planner may help to ensure that the supplemental retirement savings plan meets the participant's objectives.



PREPARING A HEALTHY RETIREMENT



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