

**The School Board of Sarasota County, Florida**  
**Financial Services Department Risk Management Office**  
**Florida Retirement System Pension Plan Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. Q: When I select my retirement date how far in advance can I file an application with the Florida Retirement System (FRS)?**

A: Florida Retirement System (FRS) will accept applications up to six months before you expect to terminate employment or participate in DROP.

**2. Q: How long will my school district group insurance benefits continue once I terminate (retire) my employment?**

A: Your group medical benefits will end at the end of the month that you last actively work.

**3. Q: Can I continue my group insurance benefits after retirement?**

A: Yes. You will have an opportunity at retirement to continue your current insurance elections into retirement. The costs of the benefits are subject to change each benefit plan year (calendar). The rates are published annually and are available upon request from the Risk Management Office and Risk Management website.

**4. Q: Can I have my group insurance premiums deducted from my pension (retirement) check?**

A: Yes. Insurance deductions will be taken from your pension check monthly. In the event, that you pension check does not cover all insurance deductions you will be invoiced at your home for these benefits. Depending on timing issues, you may be asked to pay the first month of premium by personal check to avoid benefit disruptions.

**5. Q: How is my terminal leave (accrued sick and vacation) paid at retirement?**

A: Your eligible terminal leave balances are paid through the BENCOR Special Pay Plan (IRS Section 401(a)) if over \$2500. The distribution to the plan is not subject to federal withholding or Social Security. Once the account is established and funded, you may maintain it with BENCOR or roll it to another qualified plan of your choosing.

**6. Q: How do I make elections for the direct deposit of my FRS check and withholding?**

A: After you retire FRS will send you a packet containing the following items:

- An information letter summarizing your retirement information and listing the contents of the Retiree Packet.
- W-4 Withholding Certificate for Pension Payments
- Direct Deposit Authorization
- Health Insurance Subsidy Certification, HIS
- A "Ready. Set. Retire." booklet with helpful information and answers to questions you might have as a retiree.

**7. Q: When are my monthly FRS benefits (retirement check) paid?**

A: The FRS Pension Plan retirement benefits are paid in the last working day of each month. For example, a July benefit will be paid at the end of July.

For further questions you can contact the Risk Management retirement benefit specialist Jarett Curtis at ext. 32318 or email [Jarett.curtis@sarasotacountyschools.net](mailto:Jarett.curtis@sarasotacountyschools.net)