



DROP/IBRP LA Self-directed Plan

-Empower Retirement

Fact Sheet – 25

LOUISIANA SCHOOL EMPLOYEES'
RETIREMENT SYSTEM

All DROP/IBRP LA accounts – participants/retirees eligible 1/1/2004 and after – are managed under a **Self-directed Plan** by **Empower Retirement**. This new plan only affects your funds' investments and withdrawals. Once your DROP deposits stop or when you retire under the IBRP, the account balance will be transferred to Empower for investments and **withdrawals**.

Empower Retirement (Empower): Selected and approved as a third-party, plan administrator by LSERS Board of Trustees to manage DROP/IBRP LA accounts. Once your funds are transferred to Empower, you must contact them for any DROP/IBRP LA account needs, this includes beneficiary changes, fund investments and withdrawals.

Call Center: 1.800.701.8255

Hours: Mon-Fri 7a.m. – 9p.m.; Sat 8a.m. - 4:30p.m. CT

Baton Rouge Office: 9100 Bluebonnet Blvd., Suite 203, Baton Rouge, LA 70809

1.800.937.7604 or 225.926.8082

Hours: Mon-Fri 8a.m. – 5p.m. CT

Email: Contact.LouisianaPlans@empower-retirement.com

Online Services: www.louisianadcp.com

Plan Advisors: You can schedule a one-on-one meeting to understand your investment options by visiting http://louisiana_default.empowermytime.com/.

Once your account balance is received by Empower, they will begin sending you *correspondences* and *statements*. These include, but are not limited to, a Welcome/Participation Letter, Withdrawal Notice, Quarterly Statements and Annual 1099-R Tax Form.

Withdrawals: Contact Empower for withdrawals from your DROP/IBRP LA account, but not until you are able to make withdrawals. You cannot withdraw until you terminate employment and officially retire. You will receive a letter from LSERS when your benefit is finalized.

- DROP Retiree: Withdrawals can begin while your monthly benefit is in estimated status
- IBRP Retiree: Withdrawals can begin once your monthly benefit is finalized

The withdrawal options with Empower are very flexible, including periodic payments, fixed annuity payments, partial or full lump sum payments, and roll-over transfers*. Withdrawals are exempt from La. state income tax. If you have an account balance at your death, your designated beneficiary(ies) should contact Empower.

* You can rollover/move your account balance out of Empower to another qualified retirement plan. If you choose this, you will lose your La. state income tax exemption on your future withdrawals.

Self-direct Plan (SDP): At first, your account balance will be transferred into the default investment option** under this SDP. You may choose to self-direct/move part or all of your account balance from the default investment option to other available investment options for potentially higher interest earnings (see chart below for available investment options under this SDP). Typically, funds with the potential for higher interest returns come with the potential higher risk of losing money. You are encouraged to gain full understanding before making any investment decisions. A waiver must be signed and returned to LSERS before you will be allowed to self-direct any of your account balance. The waiver is furnished by LSERS and should be returned to LSERS.

**Default investment option: *Great West Stable Value Fund for LSERS (SVF)* - It is a very conservative and interest earning option that is principal guaranteed (meaning you cannot lose money while your funds are in this option).

Fund Name
<i>Great West Stable Value Fund for LSERS**</i>
iShares MSCI Total Intl Idx Instl
iShares Russell Small/Mid-Cap Idx Instl
iShares S&P 500 Index Institutional
Vanguard Total Intl Bd Idx Admiral™
iShares US Aggregate Bond Index Instl
Great-West Lifetime 2015 Index Trust
Great-West Lifetime 2020 Index Trust
Great-West Lifetime 2025 Index Trust
Great-West Lifetime 2030 Index Trust
Great-West Lifetime 2035 Index Trust
Great-West Lifetime 2040 Index Trust
Great-West Lifetime 2045 Index Trust
Great-West Lifetime 2050 Index Trust
Great-West Lifetime 2055 Index Trust

Administrative Fee: Empower Retirement does charge your account a small fee of 0.06% annually – applied monthly; very competitive compared to other plans. With potential interest earnings, you should not see any negative impact to your account balance.

NOTE: LSERS still manages all retiree monthly benefits, and “Old” DROP/IBRP accounts (eligible prior to 1/1/2004).