

Hello and welcome to STRS Ohio's *Employer Basics 101: Annual Reporting* webinar. I'm Patty Gordon, and joining me today is Todd Wolford.

During today's webinar:

- All participants' cameras are off and you are automatically muted.
- You can press the ALT key on your keyboard to open or close the Zoom control panel.
- You can ask questions in the Q&A pane on the control panel.

Make sure you have printed copies of the handouts for today's session.



The annual report is required once a year from all STRS Ohio employers.

• The report is **due by the first Friday in August** and can be submitted any time after final fiscal year totals are known.

We're going to spend the next few minutes talking about some annual reporting basics, including:

- What information to include in the report,
- Accrued contributions,
- Calculating service credit, and
- Submitting the report to STRS Ohio.

		STATE TEACHERS I	RETIREMENT SYST	EM OF OHIO	Date :	08/03/2024 Time : 15:3
Employer Name: Bucke	eye University	Employer Number:	9599 Rep	ort ID: 16747194	Type of Report:	Regular
					Reporting Fo	r:07/01/2022 To 06/30/2023
SSN	Name	Membership Type	Pre- Tax	After- Tax	Accrued Contribution	S/C
XXX-XX-1298	Bud Abbott		16.58	0.00	0.00	0.01
XXX-XX-6366	Stan Laurel	R	46.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
XXX-XX- 9807	Oliver Hardy		6,200.37	0.00	1,308.12	1.00
XXX-XX- 4779	Charlie Chaplin		8.13	0.00	0.00	0.01
			Pretax employee contribution	After-tax employee contribution		

Each annual report must include:

- Every member's Social Security number,
- Name,
- Membership type (active or reemployed retiree),
- Total pretax and after-tax contributions for the fiscal year, and
- Accrued contributions and service credit earned.

Keep in mind, most employers withhold contributions on a pretax or tax-deferred basis. The majority of you will leave the after-tax field blank.



The first important annual reporting term we will discuss is accrued contributions.

In the example, let's discuss the **STRS Ohio fiscal year versus the contract payment period** for staff members working for nine months but being paid over 12 months.

- The fiscal year is outlined in black (July 1 through June 30)
- The **12-month contract payment** period is highlighted in **orange**. This is typically September through August.
- Accrued contributions are highlighted in green.

The definition of accrued contributions is contributions on compensation earned by June 30 of the fiscal year, but not paid until July and August of the next fiscal year. This can be summer stretch pay or advance pay.

Accrued contributions are commonly misunderstood. They can be anything earned prior to June 30 and paid in July and August, which can include **supplemental payments**, base contract payment and more.

Accrued contributions are listed two times on the annual report [refer to previous slide] :

- In the total contributions column, and
- On the accrued contribution line.

List them correctly on the **annual report** and mark them as accrued contributions in **payroll reports**.



Employers are required to **report service credit** earned for each active member. Some things to remember about service credit are:

- Reemployed retirees do not earn service credit.
- Members who meet the criteria of the STRS Ohio definition of a full-time employee and have worked at least **120 days** would receive a full year of service credit.
- Full-time employees **working less than 120 days** or **part-time individuals** will be calculated as part-time.

Let's take a look at some helpful tools for calculating service credit.



When calculating service credit for part-time members, you can find several helpful tools on the STRS Ohio Employer Website to assist you.

- A link to the **service credit calculator** can be found on the home page of the employer website under Calculators.
- There are a lot of resources in the Service Credit topic under Employer Reporting on the home page of the employer website, including:
 - Service Credit Decision Tree
 - Fact sheets for calculating service credit using Days or Hours or Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)

Let's check in to see if there are any questions at this point.



Once your annual report is completed, you can submit it to STRS Ohio one of two ways:

- Employer Self Service (ESS)
- Electronic submission using secure file upload

If you want to **change methods**, please contact your annual reporting representative.

If you or your Information Technology Center (ITC) uses secure file upload to submit the annual report, refer to the annual reporting **record layout for the file format**. This can be found in the Annual Reporting Resource Center on the employer website and on the secure file upload page.

If you submit your annual report through ESS, your report will be available on July 1.

- Your annual reporting contacts will be notified via email when the report is ready to complete.
- I would suggest registering for our live webinar on June 22 at 10 a.m. for ESS users only.
- You can also view the **Annual Reporting in ESS on-demand webinar** in the Education & Training section of the employer website or refer to the ESS Instructions.

[Live poll: Method used to submit annual report]



Another important term to remember during the annual reporting process is backposting.

The **definition** of a backposting is an adjustment or account correction made for work performed in a prior fiscal year.

For example, let's say you forgot to pay a coach for last year's baseball season and will be making that payment in October.

Follow these three steps: payroll, payment, then backposting.

By law, STRS Ohio must calculate a member's retirement benefit based on the time period in which compensation was **earned**. Therefore, any time a correction is made to a prior year's earnings, a backposting should be completed to alert STRS Ohio that money needs to be moved to a prior fiscal year. If you are unsure of how to create and submit a backposting, please refer to the backposting tutorial or ESS Instructions on the employer website.

Backposting versus accrued contributions:

- Accrued contributions are stretch pay or something paid in July or August for work performed in the previous fiscal year.
 - Make sure you are marking accrued contributions on both the annual report and payroll report.
- Backpostings are paid after August and are not part of the previous year's annual report.
- Accrued contributions can only be used in July and August.



Before you start the reconciliation process, you will need four pieces of information:

- 1. Your total amount of member contributions reported in payroll for the current fiscal year from July 1 to June 30;
- 2. The total amount of member contributions reported as accrued on last year's annual report;
- 3. The total amount of member contributions you plan to report as accrued on this year's annual report; and
- 4. The total amount of backpostings made on payments included in current fiscal year payroll reports.

The first two items can be obtained by creating a payroll report summary in ESS.

Balancing Your Annua	l Re	epor	t to	o Payı	roll
	STATE RETIR OF OF	Teachers ement System 110		27 Columbu	5 East Broad Street is, OH 43215-3771 888-227-7877 www.streb.com
		PA	UMMARY	www.suson.org	
	Report Type	Payroll (Member Co	ntribution)	Start Pay Date:	07/01/2023
	SSN:	XXX-XX-1272	Plan Type: Di	B Stop Pay Date:	06/30/2024
	Pay Da	te	Report Status	Contribution	Amount
	05/10/	2024	Open		697.97
	04/23/	2024	Complete		697.97
	03/25/	2024	Complete		697,97
Denne II and a family set	03/08/	2024	Complete		697.97
Pavroll report summarv	02/23/	2024	Complete		697.97
	02/09/	2024	Complete		697.97
	01/25/	2024 2024	Complete		697.97
	01/10/		Complete		697.97
	12/22/	2023	Complete		697.97
	12/08/	2023	Complete		697.97
	11/09/	2023	Complete	2022-2023	697.97
	10/25/	2023	Complete	accrued	697.97
	10/10/	2023	Complete	contributions	697.97
	09/25/	2023	Complete	reported on 2023	697.97
	09/08/	2023	Complete	annual report	729.47
	08/25/	2023	Complete	aaa epore	657.78 ACCRUED
	08/10/	2023	Complete		657.77 ACCRUED
	07/25/	2023	Complete		657.77 ACCRUED
	07/10	2023	Complete		SSITT ACCROED
				<u>\$175</u>	MPLOYER EDUCATION

To create a **payroll report summary**:

- Log in to ESS from the employer website
- Click on "Payroll Summary" under Additional Tools
- Enter the member's Social Security number
- Insert the date range (fiscal year is July 1 through June 30)

The first two items we need for our calculation can be found on this report:

- Total contributions for current fiscal year
- Total prior year accrued contributions

Remember, we are discussing some troubleshooting techniques if your report does not balance. I would not suggest doing this for all of your employees.



The next piece of information you need is the amount of member contributions that will be remitted in July and August for work already performed by June 30.

Balancing Your Anr	nual Re	por	t to	Pay	roll
	STRS STATE RETIRE	Teachers Ment System	275 East Broad Street Columbus, OH 43215-3771 888-227-7877		
	OF OH	www.strsoh.org			
	Report Type	Payroll (Member Cont	tribution) Start Pay Date: 07/01/2023		
	SSN:	XXX-XX-1272	Plan Type: DB	Stop Pay Date	: 06/30/2024
	Pay Dat	e	Report Status	Contributio	on Amount
	05/10/2	2024	Open		697,97
	04/25/2	2024	Complete		697.97
	04/10/2	2024	Complete		697,97
	03/25/2	2024	Complete		697,97
Desire all managers and an announcement	03/08/2	2024	Complete		697.97
Pavroll report summarv	02/23/2	2024	Complete		697.97
	02/09/2	2024	Complete		697.97
	01/25/2	2024	Complete		697,97
	01/10/2	2024	Complete		697.97
	12/22/2	2023	Complete		697.97
	12/08/2	2023	Complete		697.97
	11/22/2	2023	Complete		697.97
	11/09/2	2023	Complete		697.97
	10/25/2	023	Complete		697.97
	10/10/2	1023	Complete		697.97
	09/25/2	023	Complete		729.47
	09/08/2	023	Complete		657.78 ACCRUED
	08/20/2	023	Complete		657.77 ACCRUED
	07/25/2	023	Complete		657.77 ACCRUED
	07/10/2	2023	Complete		657.77 ACCRUED
	0.192		Compress		14,528.08
				<u>\$135</u>	EMPLOYER EDUCATIO

The majority of this total will consist of contributions on contract payouts from the school year that just ended.

In our example today, **20 of the 24 contract payments** were paid through June 30.

This means **four payments** will still be paid in the summer (July and August). This is item three on the list of information we need: **current year accrued contributions.**



The last item you will need is the total amount of backpostings for payments included in your current fiscal year payroll reports.

Balancing Your Ann	ual Report to	Payroll
	SSN: Report Type: Backposting (Member Continbu V Show Report	Start Pay Date: 07/01/2023
Summary of backpostings	SYNTE TRACHERS RETREMENT SYSTEM or Disio PAYROLL REPORT SUMMARY Report Type SSN: N/A	275 East Broad Street Countries, Dr. 13333 2777 www.stroch.org Start Pay Date: 06/30/2024
	Pay Date Report Status 06/10/2024 Complete 05/25/2024 Complete 05/10/2024 Complete 05/25/2024 Complete 04/25/2024 Complete 04/25/2024 Complete 12/23/2023 Complete 12/23/2023 Complete	Contribution Amount \$72.00 \$250.00 \$725.00 \$36.00 \$865.00 \$467.00
		SZ.500.00 EDUCATION

You can find your backposting totals in two locations:

- This screenshot shows the **payroll report summary**, which is listed under the member's Social Security number
- The **adjustment summary report** is in ESS under Documents and shows a list of all members



Now that you have gathered this information, use this formula.

Current fiscal year payroll total, minus last year's accrued contribution total, plus accrued contributions you plan to report in this annual report, plus or minus backpostings included in payroll reports.



Here are a few common things to consider if your annual report is out of balance.

Backpostings are paid in the current year but earned in the prior year.

• Double check to make sure you adjusted the year-to-date totals.

Mass adjustments such as a report card bonus may have occurred.

• This would typically be paid the year after state standards were exceeded.

You may have forgotten to adjust your current year accumulators in your payroll system. If this is the case, your current year annual report total will be **overstated** by the total member contribution amount on the bonuses paid.



Another issue that prevents your annual report from balancing to payroll is the accidental omission of some contributing members from your annual report.

The two most common groups of contributing employees omitted from annual reports are **independent contractors** and **administrators receiving pickup-on-pickup**.

Since **independent contractors** are generally not paid through a payroll account, they can be an easy group to forget. If your district uses state software, it is possible to merge your regular report with a report containing your independent contractor information. For specific instructions, you will need to contact your ITC. If you don't report using either of these two systems, you are still expected to merge contracted service worker contribution information into your annual report.

Another group that may be missing from your report are **administrators who receive pickup-on-pickup.** If you are not deducting member contributions from those administrators' paychecks, your reporting system may not include those individuals in your annual report since they are paid through a separate board account instead of your regular payroll account. Generally, this is not an issue for employers using state software, but it is always something to check for if your annual report does not balance.

The bottom line is that all contributing members, regardless of employment status, must be listed in your annual report.



Another issue to watch out for is the presence or absence of **accrued contributions** listed in your annual report.

- Administrators or teachers working year-round would not have accrued contributions.
- Teachers working nine months who are paid over 12 months **would have accrued contributions.**

If you review your report and notice accrued contributions are not listed for anyone, that could be part of your problem when balancing your report.

Ensure accrued contributions are reported correctly throughout July and August and be sure the total amount of accrued contributions is listed in your annual report.



If you were required to complete an **accrued verification report** last fall, it could affect this year's annual report if you didn't update your payroll system accordingly.

There are two possiblities:

- Payroll your accrued figure was adjusted on the annual report
- Annual your total was adjusted on the payroll report

Make sure you double check your totals.

Are there any questions about these troubleshooting items?

Once you balance and submit your annual report, STRS Ohio may send you the service credit verification report and/or the accrued verification report to complete.



First, let's take a look at the service credit verification report. A copy of the report is included in your handouts for today. This report is generated for any members whose service credit on the annual report appears inconsistent with the contributions reported.

For example:

- You reported \$70 in contributions and 1.00 year of service credit for an individual
- Many part-time members

If verification is required for anyone's service credit, an **email notification** will be sent to your school's designated contact when the report is available for completion in ESS.

The purpose of the report:

- Make sure service credit is calculated correctly
- Review service credit totals while information is still available
- Identify corrections
 - No days with contributions refund or backpost the contributions
 - May need to check with your STRS Ohio annual reporting representative to determine the next step



There are only two fields required to be completed on the service credit verification report: number of days worked or percentage of full-time equivalent and employment status.

Vork Report E Save Ap Employer Billing Loi Report So Date Rele User Rele	Editor ppiy Car cation: ource: S eased: eased:	ncel Fest Employer Service Credit Verification	Work R Work R Report Date R Batch ?	teport Type: Reg Report Status India Start Date: 07/0 Received: 07/2 No:	ular 1/2023 4/2024	Report Perio Identifier: Pay Date: Transit: Updated By:	 07/01/2023 - 06/30/202 #195440458 - Vio 06/30/2024 195440458 	24 rk Report Jul-2	# of Participants: # of Rows: Billing Type: Agreement:	9 9 Contribution Service Credit V	enfication		_	
Summary	Detail	Contra Conditionate	Evolution Ether	Name Calent	121									
Teols	Actions	SSN	Participant	Report Stop	Report Type	Record Status Days	Hours	Original Ser	rice Calculated	Override Servi	ice Adjustment	Full Time/Part	Total Category Name	
	0	000-13-6714	SHAWN, SHA	06/30/2024	Service Credit			Credit	Service Credit	Credit	Service Credit	P	S141.32 STRS	
6		000-27-6329	TODD, TODD R	05/30/2024	Service Credit				1			Ρ	\$142.40 STRS	
6		000-32-0799	MICHAEL, MI	06/30/2024	Service Credit	-			1			Ρ	\$204.13 STRS	
6		000-92-0573	DAVID, DAVID.	06/30/2024	Service Credit				1			Ρ	\$263.01 STRS	
	0.0	000-98-9705	TROY, TROY A	06/30/2024	Service Credit	-			1			2	\$282.98 STRS	
	0.00	001-34-4062	RACHEL RA	06/30/2024	Service Credit	-			1			P	\$315.00 STRS	
		002-16-8422	ASHLEY, ASH	06/30/2024	Service Credit				1			P	\$710.47 STRS	
0		002-23-6919	CHRISTOPHE	05/30/2024	Service Credt				1			P	\$14.00 STRS	
					Ζ									

Our first example screenshot shows the service credit calculated using days.

- K–12 schools
- Colleges and universities using days

Complete the Days column and Full-time/Part-time column

If you don't track service credit using days, use the Hours column. You will only use one method, never both days and hours.

Refer to your handout for a larger screenshot.

Work Report Ed Save Appl Employer: Billing Local Report Sour Date Releas User Releas	itor y C ion: rce: ied. ied.	Test Employer Service Credit Verification	Work F Work F Report Date F Batch	Report Type: Reg Report Status Initia I Start Date 07/01 Received: 07/24 No:	ular 1 (2023 (2024	Report Period: Identifier: Pay Date: Trans#: Updated By:	07/01/2023 - 06/30/2024 #195440458 - Work Rv 06/30/2024 195440458	e of Participas port Jul-2 # of Rows: Billing Type: Agreement:	5: 9 9 Contribution Service Credit Ve	erfication	-	-			
Summary	Detail	<u>.</u>													
Barg Unit Id:	SCV	V - Service Credit Verific	Exception Filter:	Please Select	~										
Teois 📃	Action	s SSN	Participant Name	Report Stop Date	Report Type Re	ecord Status Days	Hours	Summer FTE Fall FTE	Spring FTE	Original Service Credit	Calculated Service Credit	Override Service Credit	Adjustment Service Credit	Full Time/Part Time	Total Category Name Contributions
	0=0	3 000-13-6714	SHAWN, SHA.	06/30/2024	Service Credit	1				1				Ρ	\$141.32 STRS
		3 000-27-6329	TODD, TODD F	8 06/30/2024	Service Credit					1				P	\$142.40 STRS
	0=0	3 000-32-0799	MICHAEL, MI	06/30/2024	Service Credit					1				Ρ	\$204.13 STRS
	0=0	000-92-0573	DAVID, DAVID.	06/30/2024	Service Credit					1				Ρ	\$263.01 STRS
	0=0	3 000-98-9705	TROY, TROY A	06/30/2024	Service Credit	_				1				P	\$282.98 STRS
		3 001-34-4062	RACHEL BA	06/30/20/24	Service Credit									P	\$315.00 STRS
	0=0	000.16.9400	AQUIEV AQU	06/20/2024	Service Credit	_								0	6326.37 STRS
		012-23-6919	CHRISTOPHE	06/30/2024	Service Credit					1				P	\$14.00 STRS

Our next screenshot is for colleges and universities who calculate service credit based on a percentage of full-time equivalent (FTE).

Use the Summer, Fall and Spring FTE columns (highlighted in blue) as well as the Full-time/Part-time column.

Do not use decimals or percentage signs. Enter 50 percent as five zero.

Please submit your service credit verification report by the third week of August to ensure the correct service credit amount appears on the members' annual statements.



The other report you may receive after your annual report has been processed is the accrued verification report.

- Sent in mid-September
- Annual report vs. payroll accrued
- If you don't receive this report, don't panic your accrued contributions are balanced

		1.57	• •	•									
Accru	le	d Ve	eriti	50	tic	on	Re	epo	ort				
	Work Report Ed	litor ly Cancel									_	_	
	 Employer: Billing Loca Report Sou Date Releas User Releas 	tion: rce: Accrued Verification sed: sed:	Work I Work I Repor Date F Batch	Work Report Type: Regular Work Report Statuts Initial Report Start Date: (7/012023 Date Received: Batch No:			port Period: ntifier: / Date: ns#: dated By:	07/01/2023 - 08/30/2024 #195440335 - Work Report: Jul-2 08/30/2023 195440335 DBO		# of Participants: # of Rows: Billing Type: Agreement:	5 5 Contribution Accrued Verification Report	1	
	Summary	Detail											
	Barg Unit Id:	ARV - Accrued Verificatio	n Exception Filter:	Please Select	~	1							
	10015	Actions SSN	Name	Report Stop Date	Report Type	Record Status	Pre Tax	After Tax	Annual Report Accrued Amour	t Indicator	AR - FY End / Notes BP - FY Start / PY - FY End	Category Name	
		□ ♥ ⊙ 002-16-8	422 ASHLEY, ASH.	06/30/2024	Accrued Verifi	Validated	\$72	i.06 \$0.0	0 \$0.00	 Decent	× 2024	STRS	
		001-34-4	062 robert, robert	06/30/2024	Accrued Verifi	Validated	\$710	.82 \$0.0	0 \$975.06	Annual	2024	STRS	
		000-98-9	705 TROY, TROY A	06/30/2024	Accrued Verifi	Validated	\$785	.06 \$0.0	0 \$692.59	Neither	2024	STRS	
		002-00-5	JACODIMOS,		Accrued Verm	validated	\$185	.05 \$0.0	0 \$475.98		2024	STRS	
			Page Totals				\$45	0.00 \$0.0	10 \$500.0	10			
			Report Totals				\$45	0.00 \$0.0	10 \$500.0	10			1

If verification is required, an **email notification** will be sent to your school's designated annual report contact when the report is available for completion in ESS.

You may want to look at your handout for a larger view of this screenshot.

- Payroll column versus Annual column
- Choose Payroll, Annual or Neither

As I mentioned earlier, make sure you double back to your system to make sure corrections are made in your own system once this is submitted.

Available Decourses	
Available Resources	Q. Gauch STR3 Ohio Employer CONTACT REGISTRA SECURE FLE UPLOAD PAYMENT REMITTANCE V EMPLOYER REPORTING V RESOURCES V MEMBER ESS
• Tutorials (available in the	Stite Onke Developer Ster
Education & Training section of the employer website)	Activation methods, bodie and example, and the straining straining straini
• ESS Instructions	Workshops > reporting Basics Plink 1 Programs for STRS Onto Members Reporting Basics Plink 1 Programs for STRS Onto Members Reporting Basics Plink 2 Program Education Exemption
NUMBER NUMBER NUMBER DS RESOURCES Name Num	1 failing 4 555 Toxing 555 Toxing (met 6-2) Individual Training
Contraction of the second	Teterial Unrey Direc Celuit Seap New Hire HotPlation Reemployed Reline HotPlation Accord Interfacion Rigori Direc Celuit Seap New Hire HotPlation Reemployed Reline HotPlation Accord Interfacion Rigori Direc Celuit Seap New Hire HotPlation Reemployed Reline HotPlation Bolycoling Adjument Direc Celuit Seap Provid Adjument Service Celeit Vertextania Rigori
	Depuit and Sinvise Report Interlighting 55 Purchase Sinvise Credit Report Withdrawal Currification EMPLOYER EMPLOYER DEDUCATION EMPLOYER

There are some additional resources available if you need a refresher or more information about either the service credit verification report or the accrued verification report.

Tutorials are short, three- to five-minute videos on the employer website in the Education & Training section.

For step-by-step instructions on how to complete both reports, refer to the ESS Instructions on the employer website. Click on the Resources menu and select "Publications."



The final piece of the annual reporting process is the *Employer Detail Listing*. These reports will be mailed beginning in October. This report lists the final amount of contributions and service credit that STRS Ohio has posted to individual member accounts for the fiscal year.

Employers should keep this report for their files as it is considered a final record. A PDF of current and prior years' *Employer Detail Listing* can also be found in the Documents section of ESS.



Now that we've walked through the annual reporting process, here are a few key takeaways.



While there are a variety of problems that might cause an unbalanced annual report, looking for the issues we covered during today's webinar should resolve most of them.

Remember, don't spend hours trying to figure out how to balance the annual report for small amounts. Submit the report and we may be able to easily identify the issues.

In addition, STRS Ohio has many resources available on our website to help you as you work through the annual reporting process. Remember, we are here to assist you. Feel free to call or email the Employer Reporting Department with questions or concerns.



Thank you again for participating in today's webinar. We will stay on the line for a few more minutes to answer any additional questions.

Certificates of completion will be sent within two weeks.

A short evaluation will pop up once you go to leave the webinar. We would appreciate you taking the time to complete it and provide us with your feedback.

Again, we will stay on the line for additional questions, but feel free to disconnect now. Thank you for taking the time to attend this webinar. Have a great day!