What is a 457(b) FICA Alternative?

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (OBRA 90) mandates that employees of public agencies, including school districts who are not members of the employer’s existing retirement system as of January 1, 1992 be covered under Social Security or a qualifying alternate plan. The ESC Region 13 457(b) FICA Alternative Plan satisfies federal requirements and provides substantial cost savings compared to Social Security.
457(b) FICA Alternative Plan and Trust

More Important Points About Your 457(b) FICA Alternative

Company Offering Services: The Company chosen to provide the 457(b) FICA Alternative Plan is TCG Administrators, a company with many years of expertise in administering retirement plans to public sector employees.

Fees: TCG Administrators receives 1.50% of the plan assets and $.75 per participant per month paid by the participant, TCG Advisors receives .50% of assets as the investment advisory fee, ESC Region 13 receives $.10 per participant per month (normally deducted from participant accounts) as its fee for running the InvestQ program and the individual investments have fees that vary by type of investment. The investment fees are shown on the ESC Region 13 website at www.ESC13.net/InvestQ.

Protection from Liability: The District as a 457(b) plan sponsor is responsible for the types of investments offered to participants. Most 457(b) plans do not protect the District from fiduciary liability. The ESC Region 13 457(b) FICA Alternative Retirement Plan offers fiduciary protection for the District through an Investment Advisory Agreement with TCG Investment Advisory Services, LP.

Designating a Beneficiary: If the employee dies while a participant in the Plan, the account balance will be distributed to the employee’s beneficiary. If the employee is married at the time of death, the spouse is automatically the beneficiary. If the employee wishes to designate someone other than the spouse as beneficiary, the employee must do so in writing and the spouse must sign a spousal consent form. If the employee is unmarried at the time of death, the account balance will be paid to the employee’s estate unless another beneficiary has been designated. To designate a beneficiary, please login to your account at www.ESC13.net/InvestQ.

Account Access: To review your account balance or request a distribution, you can access your account on the ESC Region 13 website at www.ESC13.net/InvestQ. Please follow the steps below to access your account online.

1. Click the "Account Login" box in the upper right-hand corner
2. User Name will be your Social Security Number (no spaces or dashes): #########
3. Password will be your date of birth (MMDDYYYY): ##########