

Southington Board of Education

3121 FICA Alternative Plan

Frequently Asked Questions



What is a 3121 Plan?

This plan is offered as an alternative to Social Security and provides retirement and payroll benefits to part-time, seasonal and temporary employees.

Who is required to participate in the plan?

If you are a part-time, temporary or seasonal employee not participating in a state retirement plan, you are required to participate in the plan.

What type of plan do I have?

Your plan is a 457(b) Deferred Compensation plan.

How are contributions made to my account?

You will have a 7.5% contribution automatically deducted from your paycheck.

When do I become eligible to take a distribution?

You are able to request a distribution if:

- You no longer work for your employer, after a one year waiting period
- You went from being a part-time employee to a full-time employee
 - You have a balance less than \$5,000 and have had no contributions to your account for 2 years
- You are at least 70 ½ years old

Upon death, a distribution may be issued to the beneficiary or beneficiaries you have on file. If no beneficiary is designated on your account, the distribution will be made payable to your estate.

When will I receive my distribution?

Distributions are issued in the second half of each month. We must obtain authorization from your employer before we pay a distribution. It can take up to 90 days to process your request and issue your distribution.

Are there taxes on distributions?

Federal taxes of 20% are withheld from lump-sum distributions over \$200. There is no penalty for withdrawal regardless of age and taxes are not withheld from rollover distributions.

Are hardship withdrawals allowed on the plan?

Hardship withdrawals are not permitted on the plan.

Are there any fees?

Yes. If you are considered an inactive participant, you will be charged an administrative fee of \$1.00 per month. Inactive participants are those who are no longer employed with the School and who could, at any time, request a distribution of their account balance.

Where are my funds invested?

Funds are invested in a fixed annuity with a guaranteed rate of return. Investments are provided by American United Life Insurance Company®, a OneAmerica® Company (AUL). For more information on your investments, please visit www.oneamerica.com.

Does this plan affect my Social Security benefits?

Under the Windfall Elimination Provision, your Social Security retirement or disability benefit is figured using a modified formula when you are also entitled to a pension from a job where you did not pay Social Security tax. As a result, you will receive a lower Social Security benefit than if you were not entitled to a pension from this job. This amount is updated annually. This provision reduces, but does not totally eliminate, your Social Security benefit. For additional information, please refer to Social Security Publication, "Windfall Elimination Provision" located here: <https://www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/wep.html>.

How can I view my account balance and transaction history?

Please log into your secure online account through www.myMidAmerica.com. Your initial username is your Social Security Number (SSN) and your initial password is the last four digits of your SSN.

Questions?

If you have questions regarding your plan, please contact MidAmerica Administrative & Retirement Solutions (MidAmerica), the plan administrator, at (800) 430-7999 or email us at accountservices@myMidAmerica.com.

If submitting paper forms, send to:

MidAmerica Administrative & Retirement Solutions
Attn: 3121 Admin
PO Box 149
Lakeland, FL 33802-0149
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