

NEW ENGLAND COMMISSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION RETIREMENT ACCOUNT

SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION

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**NEW ENGLAND COMMISSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION RETIREMENT ACCOUNT
SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION
INTRODUCTION TO YOUR PLAN**

New England Commission of Higher Education Retirement Account ("Plan") has been adopted to provide you with the opportunity to save for retirement on a tax advantaged basis. This Plan is a type of retirement plan known as a 403(b) plan. This Summary Plan Description ("SPD") contains information regarding when you may become eligible to participate in the Plan, your Plan benefits, your distribution options, and many other features of the Plan. You should take the time to read this SPD to understand the features of the Plan.

This SPD addresses the most common questions you might have regarding the Plan. If this SPD does not answer all of your questions, please contact the Plan Administrator or other Plan representative. The Plan Administrator is generally responsible for responding to questions and making determinations related to the administration, interpretation, and application of the Plan, unless those responsibilities have been delegated to other parties. The name of the Plan Administrator can be found at the end of this SPD in the Article entitled "General Information about the Plan."

This SPD describes the Plan's benefits and obligations as contained in the legal Plan document, which governs the operation of the Plan. The Plan document is written in much more technical and precise language and is designed to comply with applicable legal requirements. If the non-technical language in this SPD and the technical, legal language of the Plan document conflict, the Plan document always governs. If you wish to receive a copy of the legal Plan document, please contact the Plan Administrator.

This SPD describes the current provisions of the Plan. The Plan is subject to federal laws, such as ERISA (the Employee Retirement Income Security Act), the Internal Revenue Code and other federal and state laws which might affect your rights. The provisions of the Plan are subject to revision due to a change in laws or due to pronouncements by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or Department of Labor. Your Employer may also amend or terminate this Plan. The Plan Administrator will notify you if the provisions of the Plan that are described in this SPD change.

Investment arrangement. The investment products you select (known as investment arrangements) may also affect the provisions of the Plan. In some cases the investment arrangements may limit your options under the Plan. This SPD does not address the provisions of the various investment arrangements. You should contact the Plan Administrator or the investment provider if you have questions about the provisions of your specific investment arrangements.

Types of contributions. The following types of contributions are allowed under this Plan:

- Mandatory employee contributions
- Employee elective deferrals including Roth Deferrals
- Employer nonelective contributions
- Employee rollover contributions

**ARTICLE I
PARTICIPATION IN THE PLAN**

How do I participate in the Plan?

Provided you are not an Excluded Employee, you can begin participating under the Plan once you have satisfied the eligibility requirements and reached your Entry Date, except as indicated below for reclassified employees. The following describes Excluded Employees, the eligibility requirements and Entry Dates that apply. You should contact the Plan Administrator if you have questions about the timing of your Plan participation.

Elective Deferrals

See "Additional Excluded Employee provisions" below for special provisions that might apply in determining who is an Excludable Employee.

Eligibility Conditions. You will be eligible to participate in elective deferrals on your date of hire. However, you will actually participate in elective deferrals once you reach the Entry Date as described below.

Entry Date. For purposes of elective deferrals, your Entry Date will be your date of hire.

Nonelective Contributions

Excluded Employees. If you are a member of a class of employees identified below, you are an Excluded Employee and you are not entitled to participate in the Plan for purposes of nonelective contributions. The employees who are excluded are:

- employees who normally work less than 20 hours per week. (However, if you actually complete a Year of Service, you will no longer be a part of this excluded class)

See "Additional Excluded Employee provisions" below for special provisions that might apply in determining who is an Excludable Employee.

Eligibility Conditions. You will be eligible to participate in the Plan for purposes of nonelective contributions on your date of hire. However, you will actually participate in nonelective contributions once you reach the Entry Date as described below.

Entry Date. For purposes of nonelective contributions, your Entry Date will be the date on which you satisfy the eligibility requirements.

Mandatory Employee Contributions

Excluded Employees. If you are a member of a class of employees identified below, you are an Excluded Employee and you are not entitled to participate in the Plan for purposes of mandatory employee contributions. The employees who are excluded are:

- employees who normally work less than 20 hours per week. (However, if you actually complete a Year of Service, you will no longer be a part of this excluded class)

See "Additional Excluded Employee provisions" below for special provisions that might apply in determining who is an Excludable Employee.

Eligibility Conditions. You will be eligible to participate in the Plan for purposes of mandatory employee contributions on your date of hire. However, you will actually participate in mandatory employee contributions once you reach the Entry Date as described below.

Entry Date. For purposes of mandatory employee contributions, your Entry Date will be the date on which you satisfy the eligibility requirements.

Additional Excluded Employee provisions

Leased employees and project employees are excluded from the Plan. See the Plan Administrator for additional information if you are not sure if this affects you.

Reclassified Employee

Regardless of the above, if it is determined that your Employer erroneously classified you as a non-Employee and you should have been treated as an Employee, you are not entitled to participate in the Plan.

What happens if I'm a Participant, terminate employment and then I'm rehired?

If you are no longer a Participant because of a termination of employment, and you are rehired, then you will be able to participate in the Plan on the date on which you are rehired if you are otherwise eligible to participate in the Plan.

ARTICLE II EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS

What are elective deferrals and how do I contribute them to the Plan?

Elective Deferrals. As a Participant under the Plan, you may elect to reduce your compensation by a specific percentage and have that amount contributed to the Plan as an elective deferral. There are two types of elective deferrals: Pre-Tax Deferrals and Roth Deferrals. For purposes of this SPD, "elective deferrals" generally means both Pre-Tax Deferrals and Roth Deferrals. Regardless of the type of elective deferral you make, the amount you defer is counted as compensation for purposes of Social Security taxes.

Pre-Tax Deferrals. If you elect to make Pre-Tax Deferrals, then your taxable income is reduced by the deferral contributions so you pay less in federal income taxes. Later, when the Plan distributes the deferrals and earnings, you will pay the taxes on those deferrals and the earnings. Therefore, with a Pre-Tax Deferral, federal income taxes on the elective deferral contributions and on the earnings are only postponed. Eventually, you will have to pay taxes on these amounts.

Roth Deferrals. If you elect to make Roth Deferrals, the elective deferrals are subject to federal income taxes in the year of elective deferral. However, the elective deferrals and, in certain cases, the earnings on the elective deferrals are not subject to federal income taxes when distributed to you. In order for the earnings to be tax free, you must meet certain conditions. See "What are my tax consequences when I receive a distribution from the Plan?" below.

You will always be 100% vested in your elective deferrals (see the Article in this SPD entitled "Vesting").

Elective Deferral procedure. The amount you elect to defer will be deducted from your pay in accordance with a procedure established by the Plan Administrator. If you wish to defer, the procedure will require that you enter into a Salary Reduction Agreement. You may elect to defer a portion of your compensation payable on or after your Entry Date. Such election will become effective as soon as administratively feasible after it is received by the Plan Administrator. Your election will generally remain in effect until you modify or terminate it.

Elective Deferral modifications. You may revoke or make modifications to your salary deferral election in accordance with procedures that the Employer provides. See the Plan Administrator for further information.

Elective Deferral Limit. As a Participant, you may elect to defer a *percentage* of your compensation each year instead of receiving that amount in cash. Your total elective deferrals in any taxable year cannot exceed a dollar limit which is set by law. The limit for 2019 is \$19,000. After 2019, the dollar limit may increase for cost-of-living adjustments. See the paragraph below on Annual dollar limit.

Age 50 Catch-Up Deferrals. If you are at least age 50 or will attain age 50 before the end of a calendar year, then you may elect to defer additional amounts (called Age 50 Catch-Up Deferrals) to the Plan as of the January 1st of that year. You can defer the additional amounts regardless of any other limitations on the amount you can defer to the Plan. The maximum Age 50 Catch-Up Deferrals that you can make in 2019 is \$6,000. After 2019, the maximum might increase for cost-of-living adjustments.

Annual dollar limit. You should also be aware that each separately stated annual dollar limit on the amount you may defer (the annual deferral limit and the "catch-up contribution" limit) is a separate aggregate limit that applies to all such similar salary deferral amounts and "catch-up contributions" you may make under this Plan and any other cash or deferred arrangements (including tax-sheltered 403(b) annuity contracts, simplified employee pensions or other 401(k) plans) in which you may be participating. Generally, if an annual dollar limit is exceeded, then the excess must be returned to you in order to avoid adverse tax consequences. For this reason, it is desirable to request in writing that any such excess salary deferral amounts and "catch-up contributions" be returned to you.

If you are in more than one plan, you must decide which plan or arrangement you would like to return the excess. If you decide that the excess should be distributed from this Plan, you must communicate this in writing to the Plan Administrator no later than the March 1st following the close of the calendar year in which such excess deferrals were made. However, if the entire dollar limit is exceeded in this Plan or any other plan the Employer maintains, then you will be deemed to have notified the Plan Administrator of the excess. The Plan Administrator will then return the excess deferral and any earnings to you by April 15th.

What are mandatory employee contributions?

Mandatory employee contributions. As a condition of employment, you must agree to contribute mandatory employee contributions.

The mandatory employee contribution you make is a pre-tax contribution. This means that the mandatory employee contribution is not subject to federal income taxes and might be subject to Social Security and Medicare taxes. You will always be 100% vested in any mandatory employee contributions you make to the Plan.

Employer contribution. For each Plan year that you make mandatory employee contribution to the Plan, the Employer will make a nonelective contribution to the Plan on your behalf. See "What is the Employer nonelective contribution and how is it allocated?" under the next section for more details.

Amount of mandatory employee contributions. You must agree to contribute 5% of your compensation each Plan Year to the Plan.

What are rollover contributions?

Rollover contributions. Subject to the provisions of your investment arrangements and at the discretion of the Plan Administrator, if you are a Participant in the Plan, you might be permitted to deposit into the Plan distributions you have received from other plans and certain IRAs. Such a deposit is called a "rollover" contribution and might result in tax savings to you. You may ask the Plan Administrator of the other plan or the trustee or custodian of the IRA to directly transfer (a "direct rollover") to this Plan all or a portion of any amount that you are entitled to receive as a distribution from such plan. Alternatively, you may elect to deposit any amount eligible to be rolled over within 60 days of your receipt of the distribution. You should consult qualified counsel to determine if a rollover is in your best interest.

Rollover account. Your rollover contribution will be accounted for in a "rollover account." You will always be 100% vested in your "rollover account" (see the Article in this SPD entitled "Vesting"). Rollover contributions will be affected by any investment gains or losses. In addition, any Roth deferrals that are accepted as rollovers in this Plan will be accounted for separately.

Withdrawal of rollover contributions. You may withdraw the amounts in your "rollover account" at any time.

ARTICLE III EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

This Article describes Employer contributions that might be made to the Plan and how your share of the contributions is determined.

What is the Employer nonelective contribution and how is it allocated?

Nonelective contribution. Each year, the Employer might make a discretionary nonelective contribution to the Plan. Your share of any contribution is determined below.

Nonelective contribution for mandatory employee contribution. For each Plan Year that you make a mandatory employee contribution, the Employer will make a nonelective contribution equal to 10% of your compensation.

Allocation conditions. You will always share in the nonelective contribution regardless of the amount of service you complete during the Plan Year.

Your share of the contribution. The nonelective contribution will be "allocated" or divided among Participants eligible to share in the contribution for the Plan Year.

Your share of the nonelective contribution for mandatory employee contributions will be determined by the formula for making that contribution.

Your share of the nonelective contribution (other than the contribution for employee mandatory contributions) is determined by the following fraction:

$$\text{Nonelective Contribution} \quad \times \quad \frac{\text{Your Compensation}}{\text{Total Compensation of All Participants Eligible to Share}}$$

For example: Suppose the nonelective contribution for the Plan Year is \$20,000. Employee A's compensation for the Plan Year is \$25,000. The total compensation of all Participants eligible to share, including Employee A, is \$250,000. Employee A's share will be:

$$\$20,000 \quad \times \quad \frac{\$25,000}{\$250,000} \quad \text{or} \quad \$2,000$$

ARTICLE IV COMPENSATION AND ACCOUNT BALANCE

What compensation is used to determine my Plan benefits?

All Contributions

Definition of compensation. Compensation is defined as your total compensation that is subject to income tax and paid to you by your Employer for the Plan Year.

Adjustments to compensation. Regardless of the definition of compensation, the following adjustments will be made:

- elective deferrals to this Plan and to any other plan or arrangement (such as a cafeteria plan) will be included.
- compensation paid while not a Participant in the component of the Plan for which compensation is being used will be excluded.

Elective Deferrals

Adjustments to compensation. In addition to adjustments to compensation under "All Contributions" above, the following adjustments to compensation will be made for purposes of elective deferrals:

- compensation paid after you terminate is generally excluded for Plan purposes. However, the following amounts will be included in compensation even though they are paid after you terminate employment, provided these amounts would otherwise have been considered compensation as described above and provided they are paid within 2 1/2 months after you terminate employment, or if later, the last day of the Plan Year in which you terminate employment:
 - compensation paid for services performed during your regular working hours, or for services outside your regular working hours (such as overtime or shift differential), or other similar payments that would have been made to you had you continued employment.

Nonelective Contributions

Adjustments to compensation. In addition to adjustments to compensation under "All Contributions" above, the following adjustments to compensation will be made for purposes of nonelective contributions:

- compensation paid after you terminate is generally excluded for Plan purposes. However, the following amounts will be included in compensation even though they are paid after you terminate employment, provided these amounts would otherwise have been considered compensation as described above and provided they are paid within 2 1/2 months after you terminate employment, or if later, the last day of the Plan Year in which you terminate employment:
 - compensation paid for services performed during your regular working hours, or for services outside your regular working hours (such as overtime or shift differential), or other similar payments that would have been made to you had you continued employment.

Mandatory Employee Contributions.

Adjustments to compensation. In addition to adjustments to compensation under "All Contributions" above, the following adjustments to compensation will be made for purposes of mandatory employee contributions:

- compensation paid after you terminate is generally excluded for Plan purposes. However, the following amounts will be included in compensation even though they are paid after you terminate employment, provided these amounts would otherwise have been considered compensation as described above and provided they are paid within 2 1/2 months after you terminate employment, or if later, the last day of the Plan Year in which you terminate employment:
 - compensation paid for services performed during your regular working hours, or for services outside your regular working hours (such as overtime or shift differential), or other similar payments that would have been made to you had you continued employment.

Is there a limit on the amount of compensation which can be considered?

The Plan, by law, cannot recognize annual compensation in excess of a certain dollar limit. The limit for the Plan Year beginning in 2019 is \$280,000. After 2019, the dollar limit might increase for cost-of-living adjustments.

Is there a limit on how much can be contributed to my account each year?

The law imposes a limit on the amount of contributions (both Employer contributions and elective deferrals, but excluding Age 50 Catch-Up Deferrals) that may be made to your accounts during a year. For 2019, this total cannot exceed the lesser of \$56,000 or 100% of your includible compensation (generally your compensation for the prior 12-month period, as limited under the previous question). After 2019, the dollar limit might increase for cost-of-living adjustments.

The above limit may also need to be applied by taking into account contributions made to other retirement plans in which you are a participant. If you have more than 50% control of a corporation, partnership, and/or sole proprietorship, then the above limit is based on contributions made in this Plan as well as contributions made to any 403(b) or qualified plans maintained by the businesses you control. If you control another business that maintains a plan in which you participate, then you are responsible for providing the Plan Administrator with information necessary to apply the annual contribution limits. If you fail to provide necessary and correct information to the Plan Administrator, it could result in adverse tax consequences to you, including the inability to exclude contributions to the Plan from your gross income for tax purposes.

How is the money in the Plan invested?

The Plan assets may be invested in mutual funds and Annuity Contracts. See the Plan Administrator for further details regarding permissible investments.

You will be able to direct the investment of your Plan account, including your elective deferrals. The Plan Administrator will provide you with information on the investment choices available to you, the frequency with which you can change your investment choices and other information. If you do not direct the investment of your Plan account, then your account will be invested in accordance with the default investment alternatives your Employer establishes under the Plan. These default investments will be made in accordance with specific rules under which the fiduciaries of the Plan, including your Employer and the Plan Administrator, will be relieved of any legal liability for any losses resulting from the default investments. The Plan Administrator has or will provide you with a separate notice which details these default investments and your right to switch out of the default investment if you so desire.

The Plan is intended to comply with Section 404(c) of ERISA (the Employee Retirement Income Security Act). If the Plan complies with this Section, then the fiduciaries of the Plan, including your Employer and the Plan Administrator, will be relieved of any legal liability for any losses which are the direct and necessary result of the investment directions that you give. You must follow procedures in giving investment directions. If you fail to do so, then your investment directions need not be followed.

When you direct investments, your account is segregated for purposes of determining the earnings or losses on these investments. Your account does not share in the investment performance for other Participants who have directed their own investments.

You should remember that the amount of your benefits under the Plan will depend in part upon your choice of investments. Gains as well as losses can occur and your Employer and the Plan Administrator will not provide investment advice or guarantee the performance of any investment you choose.

Periodically, you will receive a benefit statement that provides information on your account balance and your investment returns. It is your responsibility to notify the Plan Administrator of any errors you see on any statements within 30 days after the statement is provided or made available to you.

Will Plan expenses be deducted from my account balance?

Expenses allocated to all accounts. Subject to the terms of the investment arrangements funding the plan, the Plan might pay some or all Plan related expenses except for a limited category of expenses which the law requires your Employer to pay. The category of expenses which your Employer must pay are known as "settlor expenses." Generally, settlor expenses relate to the design, establishment or termination of the Plan. See the Plan Administrator for more details. The expenses charged to the Plan might be charged pro rata to each Participant in relation to the size of each Participant's account balance or might be charged equally to each Participant. In addition, some types of expenses might be charged only to some Participants based upon their use of a Plan feature or receipt of a Plan distribution. Finally, the Plan might charge expenses in a different manner as to Participants who have terminated employment with your Employer versus those Participants who remain employed with your Employer.

Terminated employee. After you terminate employment, subject to the terms of the investment arrangements funding the Plan, your Employer reserves the right to charge your account for your pro rata share of the Plan's administration expenses, regardless of whether your Employer pays some of these expenses on behalf of current employees.

Expenses allocated to individual accounts. There are certain other expenses that might be paid just from your account subject to the terms of the investment arrangements funding the Plan. These are expenses that are specifically incurred by, or attributable to, you. For example, if you are married and get divorced, the Plan might incur additional expenses if a court mandates that a portion of your account be paid to your ex-spouse. These additional expenses might be paid directly from your account (and not the accounts of other Participants) because they are directly attributable to you under the Plan. The Plan Administrator will inform you when there will be a charge (or charges) directly to your account.

Your Employer might, from time to time, change the manner in which expenses are allocated.

ARTICLE V VESTING

What is my vested interest in my account?

You are always 100% vested in all of your Plan accounts.

ARTICLE VI DISTRIBUTIONS PRIOR TO TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT

The Individual Agreements governing the investment options that you selected for your Plan contributions might contain additional limits on when you can take a distribution, the form of distribution that is available as well as your right to transfer among approved investment options. Please review both the following information in this Summary Plan Description and the terms of your annuity contracts or custodial agreements before requesting a distribution. Contact your Employer or the investment vendor if you have questions regarding your distribution options.

Can I withdraw money from my account while working?

In-service distributions. You may be entitled to receive an in-service distribution. However, this distribution is not in addition to your other benefits and will therefore reduce the value of the benefits you will receive at retirement. This distribution is made at your election subject to possible administrative limitations on the frequency and actual timing of such distributions. You may withdraw amounts from accounts for rollover contributions at any time.

Conditions. Generally you may receive a distribution from certain accounts prior to termination of employment provided you satisfy any of the following conditions:

- you have attained age 59 1/2. Satisfying this condition allows you to receive distributions from all contribution accounts.
- you have incurred a financial hardship as described below.

- you incur a disability (as defined in the Plan). Satisfying this condition allows you to receive distributions from all contribution accounts.

Annuity waiver. If you wish to receive any in-service distribution from the Plan in a single payment from your account, you (and your spouse, if married) must first waive the annuity form of payment. If you are married, you must get written consent from your spouse to take a distribution from the Plan in any form other than a qualified joint and survivor annuity. Your spouse's consent is also needed if you want to name someone other than your spouse as your beneficiary. The annuity would need to be structured to provide a benefit while you are both alive and then to provide a survivor benefit that is equal to 50 percent of the amount you received while you were both living. You can designate a different survivor percentage subject to certain limits under the qualified optional survivor annuity regulations. Your Employer will provide you with more information regarding your annuity options when it comes time for you to make a decision. Follow the procedures established by your Employer to document your spouse's consent to waive the annuity and take the payment in some other form permitted by the Plan. Your spouse must also consent to any Plan loans that you request.

Can I withdraw money from my account in the event of financial hardship?

Hardship distributions. You may withdraw money on account of financial hardship if you satisfy certain conditions, subject to any rules and conditions set forth in the investment arrangements. This hardship distribution is not in addition to your other benefits and will therefore reduce the value of the benefits you will receive upon termination of employment or other event entitling you to distribution of your account balance. You may not receive a hardship distribution from your qualified nonelective contribution account, if any.

Qualifying expenses. A hardship distribution may be made to satisfy certain immediate and heavy financial needs that you have. A hardship distribution may only be made for payment of the following:

- Expenses for medical care (described in Section 213(d) of the Internal Revenue Code) for you, your spouse, your dependents or your beneficiary.
- Costs directly related to the purchase of your principal residence (excluding mortgage payments).
- Tuition, related educational fees, and room and board expenses for the next twelve (12) months of post-secondary education for you, your spouse, your children, your dependents or your beneficiary.
- Amounts necessary to prevent your eviction from your principal residence or foreclosure on the mortgage of your principal residence.
- Payments for burial or funeral expenses for your deceased parent, spouse, children, your dependents or your beneficiary.
- Expenses for the repair of damage to your principal residence (that would qualify for the casualty loss deduction under Internal Revenue Code Section 165).

Beneficiary Hardship. A beneficiary is someone you designate under the Plan to receive your death benefit who is not otherwise your spouse or dependent.

Conditions. If you have any of the above expenses, a hardship distribution can only be made if you certify and agree that all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) The distribution is not in excess of the amount of your immediate and heavy financial need. The amount of your immediate and heavy financial need may include any amounts necessary to pay any federal, state, or local income taxes or penalties reasonably anticipated to result from the distribution; and
- (b) You have obtained all distributions, other than hardship distributions.

Account restrictions. You may request a hardship distribution only from the vested portion of the following accounts:

- accounts attributable to elective deferrals

Restricted Amounts. There are additional restrictions placed on hardship distributions from certain accounts (referred to as "Restricted Accounts"). Restricted Accounts include your elective deferrals and any qualified nonelective contributions. Generally, the only amounts that can be distributed to you from these Restricted Accounts are your elective deferrals (earnings on your elective deferrals cannot be withdrawn for a hardship). Ask the Plan Administrator if you need further details.

Annuity waiver. If you wish to receive a hardship distribution from the Plan in a single payment from your account, you (and your spouse, if you are married) must first waive the annuity form of payment. (See the Article entitled "Benefits and Distributions Upon Termination of Employment" for a further explanation of how benefits are paid from the Plan.)

ARTICLE VII DISTRIBUTIONS UPON TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT

To the extent permitted in the investment arrangements, the provisions in this Article apply to distributions from the Plan following termination of employment.

When can I get money out of the Plan?

You might be able to receive a distribution of some or all of your accounts in the Plan when you terminate employment with your Employer. The rules regarding the payment of death benefits to your beneficiary are described in the Article in this SPD entitled "Distributions upon Death."

If you terminate employment and your vested benefit exceeds \$5,000, you will be entitled to a distribution within a reasonable time after your termination. You must consent to this distribution. (See the question "How will my benefits be paid?" for a further explanation of how benefits are paid from the Plan.)

If you terminate employment, and the value of your vested benefit does not exceed \$5,000, then a distribution will automatically be paid to you even if you do not consent. Such distribution will be paid to you within a reasonable period of time after your termination of employment. See the question entitled "How will my benefits be paid to me?" for an explanation of how these benefits will be paid.

Treatment of "rollover" contributions for consent to distribution. In determining if the value of your vested account balance exceeds the \$5,000 threshold described above used to determine whether you must consent to a distribution, your "rollover account" will be considered as part of your benefit.

Military Service. If you are a veteran and are reemployed under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, your qualified military service may be considered service with your Employer. There might also be benefits for employees who die or become disabled while on active duty. Employees who receive wage continuation payments while in the military may benefit from various changes in the law. If you think you may be affected by these rules, ask the Plan Administrator for further details.

What is Normal Retirement Age and what is the significance of reaching Normal Retirement Age?

Normal Retirement Age. Your Normal Retirement Age is the date you reach age 65.

Payment of benefits. You will become 100% vested in all of your accounts under the Plan (assuming you are not already fully vested) if you are employed on or after your Normal Retirement Age. However, the actual payment of benefits generally will not begin until you have terminated employment. In such event, a distribution will be made, at your election, as soon as administratively feasible. If you remain employed past your Normal Retirement Age, you may generally defer the receipt of benefits until you actually terminate employment. In such event, benefit payments will begin as soon as feasible at your request, but generally not later than age 70 1/2. (See the question entitled "How will my benefits be paid to me?" for an explanation of how these benefits will be paid.)

When am I considered to be disabled under the Plan?

Definition of disability. Under the Plan, disability is defined as the inability to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment that can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than twelve months. The permanence and degree of such impairment must be supported by medical evidence. The Plan Administrator may require that your disability be determined by a licensed physician.

How will my benefits be paid to me?

The following provisions apply to the extent permitted under the investment arrangements in which the plan assets are invested.

Lump-sum distributions. If you terminate employment and your vested account balance does not exceed \$5,000, then your vested account balance might only be distributed to you in a single lump-sum payment.

Distribution methods. If you terminate employment and your vested account balance exceeds \$5,000 (or another amount as provided in your investment arrangement), then your vested account balance might be distributed to you under the following methods provided they are permitted under your investment arrangements:

- a single lump-sum payment
- installments over a period of not more than your assumed life expectancy (or the assumed life expectancies of you and your beneficiary)
- an annuity contract that the Vendor provides or purchases with your vested account balance

- ad-hoc distributions. You may request a distribution of some or all of your Plan accounts, at any time following your termination of employment, subject to any reasonable limits regarding timing and amounts as the Plan Administrator or your investment arrangements may impose.

Required beginning date. There are rules that require that certain minimum distributions be made from the Plan. Distributions are required to begin not later than the April 1st following the end of the year in which you reach age 70 1/2 or terminate employment, whichever is later. You should see the Plan Administrator if you think you might be affected by these rules.

Mandatory annuity distribution (subject to waiver). Subject to the provisions of your investment arrangements, if you are married on the date your benefits are to begin, you will automatically receive a joint and 50% survivor annuity, unless you and your spouse waive the annuity and elect an alternative form of payment. This means that you will receive payments for your life, and after your death, your surviving spouse will receive a monthly benefit for the remainder of his or her life equal to 50% of the benefit you were receiving at the time of your death. You may elect a joint and 75% survivor annuity instead of the standard joint and 50% survivor annuity. You should consult an advisor before making such election.

If you are not married on the date your benefits are to begin, you will automatically receive a life annuity, unless you waive the qualified annuity and elect an alternative form of payment. This means you will receive payments for as long as you live.

However, regardless of your marital status, if your vested account balance does not exceed \$5,000, then, depending on the terms of your investment arrangement, your vested account balance might be distributed to you in a single lump-sum payment and you might not receive the qualified annuity.

May I elect another distribution method?

Waiver of annuity. If your vested benefit in the Plan exceeds \$5,000, then when you are about to receive any distribution, the Plan Administrator will explain the joint and survivor annuity or the life annuity to you in greater detail. You will be given the option of waiving the joint and survivor annuity or the life annuity form of payment during the 180-day period before the annuity is to begin. IF YOU ARE MARRIED, YOUR SPOUSE MUST IRREVOCABLY CONSENT IN WRITING TO THE WAIVER IN THE PRESENCE OF A NOTARY OR A PLAN REPRESENTATIVE. You may revoke any waiver. The Plan Administrator will provide you with forms to make these elections. Since your spouse participates in these elections, you must immediately inform the Plan Administrator of any change in your marital status.

Other distribution method. If your vested account balance exceeds \$5,000 and if you and your spouse elect not to take a joint and survivor annuity, or if you are not married when your benefits are scheduled to begin and have elected not to take a life annuity, you may elect to receive distribution of your account balance under any alternative distribution method as described above.

ARTICLE VIII DISTRIBUTIONS UPON DEATH

What happens if I die while working for the Employer?

If you die while still employed by the Employer, then your account balance will be used to provide your beneficiary with a death benefit.

Who is the beneficiary of my death benefit?

Married Participant. If you are married at the time of your death, your spouse will be the beneficiary of 50% of the death benefit distributed as a qualified annuity. Any remaining amount of your death benefit which is not payable to your spouse as a qualified annuity will be paid to your beneficiary (which may be your spouse). You may designate a non-spouse beneficiary as to the portion of your account not payable as a qualified annuity without your spouse's consent. IF YOU WISH TO WAIVE THE QUALIFIED ANNUITY BENEFIT, YOUR SPOUSE MUST IRREVOCABLY CONSENT TO WAIVE THE ANNUITY AND TO YOUR DESIGNATION OF ANY NON-SPOUSE BENEFICIARY. YOUR SPOUSE'S CONSENT MUST BE IN WRITING, BE WITNESSED BY A NOTARY OR A PLAN REPRESENTATIVE AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE SPECIFIC NON-SPOUSE BENEFICIARY.

If you are married and you change your designation, then your spouse must again consent to the change. In addition, you may elect a beneficiary other than your spouse without your spouse's consent if your spouse cannot be located.

Unmarried Participant. If you are not married, you may designate a beneficiary of your choosing.

Divorce. If you have designated your spouse as your beneficiary for all or a part of your death benefit, then upon your divorce, the designation is no longer valid. This means that if you do not select a new beneficiary after your divorce, then you are treated as not having a beneficiary for that portion of the death benefit (unless you have remarried, in which case the prior provisions of this section apply to your new spouse).

No beneficiary designation. Subject to the terms of the investment arrangements, at the time of your death, if you have not designated a beneficiary or your beneficiary is not alive, then 50% of your death benefit will be paid to your surviving spouse and 50% will be paid to your estate. If you are unmarried or have no surviving spouse, your entire death benefit will be paid to your estate.

How will the death benefit be paid to my beneficiary?

Mandatory annuity distribution (subject to waiver). If the death benefit does not exceed \$5,000, then the benefit may only be paid as a lump-sum. If you are married at the time of your death and the death benefit exceeds \$5,000, then the death benefit will be paid to your spouse in the form of a qualified annuity as described above under "Who is the beneficiary of my death benefit?", unless you and your spouse waive the qualified annuity. If the qualified annuity applies, the Plan will purchase, using 50% of your account, an annuity contract providing for payments over the life of your spouse. The size of the monthly payments will depend on the value of your vested account at the time of your death.

Waiver of annuity. You and your spouse may waive the qualified annuity form of distribution. Generally, the period during which you and your spouse may waive the annuity begins as of the first day of the Plan Year in which you reach age 35 and ends when you die. The Plan Administrator must provide you with a detailed explanation of the annuity. This explanation must generally be given to you during the period of time beginning on the first day of the Plan Year in which you will reach age 32 and ending on the first day of the Plan Year in which you reach age 35. It is important that you inform the Plan Administrator when you reach age 32 so that you may receive this information.

Under a special rule, you and your spouse may waive the survivor annuity form of payment any time before you turn age 35. However, any waiver will become invalid at the beginning of the Plan Year in which you turn age 35, and you and your spouse will be required to make another waiver.

Distribution method/annuity waived. If you and your spouse waive the qualified annuity, and the death benefit exceeds \$5,000, the benefit may be paid to your spouse in the methods described above under "How will my benefits be paid to me?" provided the methods are permitted under your investment arrangements.

When must payments be made to my beneficiary (required minimum distributions)?

If your designated beneficiary is a person (other than your estate or most trusts) then minimum distributions of your death benefit must generally begin within one year of your death and must be paid over a period not extending beyond your beneficiary's life expectancy. If your spouse is the beneficiary, the start of payments may be delayed until the year in which you would have attained age 70 1/2. Generally, if you die before you are required to begin minimum distributions (which for most people is shortly after the later of age 70 1/2 or retirement) and your beneficiary is not a person, then your entire death benefit must be paid within five years after your death. Some investment products may allow a person to use this five-year rule. See the Plan Administrator for further details.

Since a spouse has certain rights in the death benefit, you should immediately report any change in your marital status to the Plan Administrator.

What happens if I terminate employment, commence required minimum distribution payments and then die before receiving all of my benefits?

If you are married at the time of death, the form of payment will be a life annuity to your surviving spouse as described above under "Mandatory annuity distribution (subject to waiver)," unless you and your spouse had waived the qualified annuity. In the event you had waived the qualified annuity, your beneficiary will be entitled to your remaining vested interest in the Plan at the time of your death. See the Plan Administrator for more information regarding the timing and method of payments that apply to your beneficiary.

ARTICLE IX TAX TREATMENT OF DISTRIBUTIONS

What are my tax consequences when I receive a distribution from the Plan?

Generally, you must include any Plan distribution in your taxable income in the year in which you receive the distribution. The tax treatment may also depend on your age when you receive the distribution. Certain distributions made to you when you are under age 59 1/2 could be subject to an additional federal 10% penalty tax.

You will not be taxed on distributions of your Roth deferrals. In addition, a distribution of the earnings on the Roth deferrals will not be subject to tax if the distribution is a "qualified distribution." A "qualified distribution" is one that is made after you have attained age 59 1/2 or is made on account of your death or disability. In addition, in order to be a "qualified distribution," the distribution cannot be made prior to the expiration of a 5-year participation period. The 5-year participation period is the 5-year period beginning the calendar year in which you first make a Roth deferral to our Plan (or to another 401(k) plan or 403(b) plan if such amount was rolled over into this Plan) and ending on the last day of the calendar year that is 5 years later.

Can I elect a rollover to reduce or defer tax on my distribution?

Rollover or Direct Transfer. You may reduce, or defer entirely, the tax due on your distribution through use of one of the following methods:

(a) **60-day rollover.** You may roll over all or a portion of the distribution to an Individual Retirement Account or Annuity (IRA) or another employer retirement plan willing to accept the rollover. This will result in no tax being due until you begin withdrawing funds from the IRA or other qualified employer plan. The rollover of the distribution, however, **MUST** be made within strict time frames (normally, within 60 days after you receive your distribution). Under certain circumstances, all or a portion of a distribution (such as a hardship distribution) may not qualify for this rollover treatment. In addition, most distributions will be subject to mandatory federal income tax withholding at a rate of 20%. This will reduce the amount you actually receive. For this reason, if you wish to roll over all or a portion of your distribution amount, then the direct rollover option described in paragraph (b) below would be the better choice.

(b) **Direct rollover.** For most distributions, you may request that a direct transfer (sometimes referred to as a direct rollover) of all or a portion of a distribution be made to either an Individual Retirement Account or Annuity (IRA) or another employer retirement plan willing to accept the transfer. A direct transfer will result in no tax being due until you withdraw funds from the IRA or other employer plan. Like the 60-day rollover, under certain circumstances all or a portion of the amount to be distributed may not qualify for this direct transfer. If you elect to actually receive the distribution rather than request a direct transfer, then in most cases 20% of the distribution amount will be withheld for federal income tax purposes. If you decide to directly transfer all or a portion of a distribution, you (and your spouse, if you are married) must first waive the qualified annuity form of payment. (See the question entitled "How will my benefits be paid to me?" for a further explanation of this waiver requirement.)

Automatic IRA Rollover of Certain Account Balances

If a mandatory distribution is being made to you before the later of age 62 or Normal Retirement Age and your vested account balance does not exceed \$5,000 (including any rollover contribution), the Plan might distribute your vested portion in a single lump-sum payment. However, you may elect whether to receive the distribution or to roll over the distribution to another retirement plan such as an individual retirement account ("IRA"). At the time of your termination of employment, the Plan Administrator will provide you with further information regarding your distribution rights. If the amount of the distribution exceeds \$.01 (including any rollover contribution) and you do not elect either to receive or to roll over the distribution, the Plan automatically will roll over the distribution to an IRA. The IRA provider will invest the rollover funds in a type of investment designed to preserve principal and to provide a reasonable rate of return and liquidity (e.g., an interest-bearing account, a certificate of deposit or a money market fund). The IRA provider will charge your account for any expenses associated with the establishment and maintenance of the IRA and with the IRA investments. In addition, your beneficiary designation under the Plan, if any, will not apply to the rollover IRA. The IRA's terms will control in establishing a designated beneficiary under the IRA. You may transfer the IRA funds to any other IRA you choose. You may contact the Plan Administrator at the address and telephone number indicated in this SPD for further information regarding the Plan's automatic rollover provisions, the IRA provider and the fees and charges associated with the IRA.

Tax Notice. WHENEVER YOU RECEIVE A DISTRIBUTION THAT IS AN ELIGIBLE ROLLOVER DISTRIBUTION, THE PLAN ADMINISTRATOR WILL DELIVER TO YOU A MORE DETAILED EXPLANATION OF THESE OPTIONS. HOWEVER, THE RULES WHICH DETERMINE WHETHER YOU QUALIFY FOR FAVORABLE TAX TREATMENT ARE VERY COMPLEX. YOU SHOULD CONSULT WITH QUALIFIED TAX COUNSEL BEFORE MAKING A CHOICE.

ARTICLE X LOANS

Is it possible to borrow money from the Plan?

Yes, it is possible to borrow money from the Plan. Loans are permitted in accordance with the Plan Loan Policy and subject to the limitations of your investment arrangements.

ARTICLE XI PROTECTED BENEFITS AND CLAIMS PROCEDURES

Are my benefits protected?

As a general rule, your interest in your account, including your "vested interest," may not be alienated. This means that your interest may not be sold, used as collateral for a loan (other than for a Plan loan), given away or otherwise transferred (except at death to your beneficiary). In addition, your creditors (other than the IRS) may not attach, garnish or otherwise interfere with your benefits under the Plan.

Are there any exceptions to the general rule?

There are three exceptions to this general rule. The Plan Administrator must honor a qualified domestic relations order (QDRO). A QDRO is defined as a decree or order issued by a court that obligates you to pay child support or alimony, or otherwise allocates a portion of your

assets in the Plan to your spouse, former spouse, children or other dependents (referred to as alternate payees). If a QDRO is received by the Plan Administrator, all or a portion of your benefits may be used to satisfy that obligation. The Plan Administrator will determine the validity of any domestic relations order received. You and your beneficiaries can obtain from the Plan Administrator, without charge, a copy of the procedure used by the Plan Administrator to determine whether a qualified domestic relations order is valid.

The second exception applies if you are involved with the Plan's operation. If you are found liable for any action that adversely affects the Plan, the Plan Administrator can offset your benefits by the amount that you are ordered or required by a court to pay the Plan. All or a portion of your benefits may be used to satisfy any such obligation to the Plan.

The last exception applies to federal tax levies and judgments. The federal government is able to use your interest in the Plan to enforce a federal tax levy and to collect a judgment resulting from an unpaid tax assessment.

Can the Employer amend the Plan?

Your Employer has the right to amend the Plan at any time. In no event, however, will any amendment authorize or permit any part of the Plan assets to be used for purposes other than the exclusive benefit of Participants or their beneficiaries. Additionally, no amendment will cause any reduction in the amount credited to your account.

What happens if the Plan is discontinued or terminated?

Although your Employer intends to maintain the Plan indefinitely, your Employer reserves the right to terminate the Plan at any time. Upon termination, no further contributions will be made to the Plan and all amounts credited to your accounts will continue to be 100% vested. Your Employer will direct the distribution of your accounts in a manner permitted by the Plan as soon as practicable. You will be notified if the Plan is terminated.

How do I submit a claim for Plan benefits?

Benefits will generally be paid to you and your beneficiaries without the necessity for formal claims. Contact the Plan Administrator or investment provider if you are entitled to benefits or if you think an error has been made in determining your benefits. Any such request should be in writing.

If the Plan Administrator determines the claim is valid, then you will receive a statement describing the amount of benefit, the method or methods of payment, the timing of distributions and other information relevant to the payment of the benefit.

What if my benefits are denied?

Your request for Plan benefits will be considered a claim for Plan benefits, and it will be subject to a full and fair review. If your claim is wholly or partially denied, the Plan Administrator will provide you with a written or electronic notification of the Plan's adverse determination.

Your request for Plan benefits will be considered a claim for Plan benefits, and it will be subject to a full and fair review. If your claim is wholly or partially denied, the Plan Administrator will provide you with a written or electronic notification of the Plan's adverse determination. This written or electronic notification must be provided to you within a reasonable period of time, but not later than 90 days after the receipt of your claim by the Plan Administrator, unless the Plan Administrator determines that special circumstances require an extension of time for processing your claim. If the Plan Administrator determines that an extension of time for processing is required, written notice of the extension will be furnished to you prior to the termination of the initial 90-day period. In no event will such extension exceed a period of 90 days from the end of such initial period. The extension notice will indicate the special circumstances requiring an extension of time and the date by which the Plan expects to render the benefit determination.

In the case of a claim for disability benefits, if disability is determined by a physician (rather than relying upon a determination of disability for Social Security purposes), then instead of the above, the Plan Administrator will provide you with written or electronic notification of the Plan's adverse benefit determination within a reasonable period of time, but not later than 45 days after receipt of the claim by the Plan. This period may be extended by the Plan for up to 30 days, provided that the Plan Administrator both determines that such an extension is necessary due to matters beyond the control of the Plan and notifies you, prior to the expiration of the initial 45-day period, of the circumstances requiring the extension of time and the date by which the Plan expects to render a decision. If, prior to the end of the first 30-day extension period, the Plan Administrator determines that, due to matters beyond the control of the Plan, a decision cannot be rendered within that extension period, the period for making the determination may be extended for up to an additional 30 days, provided that the Plan Administrator notifies you, prior to the expiration of the first 30-day extension period, of the circumstances requiring the extension and the date as of which the Plan expects to render a decision. In the case of any such extension, the notice of extension will specifically explain the standards on which entitlement to a benefit is based, the unresolved issues that prevent a decision on the claim, and the additional information needed to resolve those issues, and you will be afforded at least 45 days within which to provide the specified information.

The Plan Administrator's written or electronic notification of any adverse benefit determination must contain the following information:

- (a) The specific reason or reasons for the adverse determination.
- (b) Reference to the specific Plan provisions on which the determination is based.
- (c) A description of any additional material or information necessary for you to perfect the claim and an explanation of why such material or information is necessary.
- (d) Appropriate information as to the steps to be taken if you or your beneficiary wants to submit your claim for review.
- (e) In the case of disability benefits where disability is determined by a physician:
 - (i) If an internal rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion (collectively "rule") was relied upon in making the adverse determination, either the specific rule or a statement that such rule was relied upon in making the adverse determination and that a copy of that rule will be provided to you free of charge upon request.
 - (ii) If the adverse benefit determination is based on a medical necessity or experimental treatment or similar exclusion or limit, either an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination, applying the terms of the Plan to your medical circumstances, or a statement that such explanation will be provided to you free of charge upon request.

If your claim has been denied, and you want to submit your claim for review, you must follow the claims review procedure in the next question.

What is the claims review procedure?

Upon the denial of your claim for benefits, you may file your claim for review, in writing, with the Plan Administrator.

- (a) YOU MUST FILE THE CLAIM FOR REVIEW NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS AFTER YOU HAVE RECEIVED WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF THE DENIAL OF YOUR CLAIM FOR BENEFITS.

HOWEVER, IF YOUR CLAIM IS FOR DISABILITY BENEFITS AND DISABILITY IS DETERMINED BY A PHYSICIAN, THEN INSTEAD OF THE ABOVE, YOU MUST FILE THE CLAIM FOR REVIEW NO LATER THAN 180 DAYS FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF NOTIFICATION OF AN ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION.
- (b) You may submit written comments, documents, records, and other information relating to your claim for benefits.
- (c) You may review all pertinent documents relating to the denial of your claim and submit any issues and comments, in writing, to the Plan Administrator.
- (d) You will be provided, upon request and free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records, and other information relevant to your claim for benefits.
- (e) Your claim for review must be given a full and fair review. This review will take into account all comments, documents, records, and other information submitted by you relating to your claim, without regard to whether such information was submitted or considered in the initial benefit determination.

In addition to the claims review procedure above, if your claim is for disability benefits and disability is determined by a physician, then:

- (a) Your claim will be reviewed without deference to the initial adverse benefit determination and the review will be conducted by an appropriate named fiduciary of the Plan who is neither the individual who made the adverse benefit determination that is the subject of the appeal, nor the subordinate of such individual.
- (b) In deciding an appeal of any adverse benefit determination that is based in whole or part on medical judgment, the appropriate named fiduciary will consult with a health care professional who has appropriate training and experience in the field of medicine involved in the medical judgment.
- (c) Any medical or vocational experts whose advice was obtained on behalf of the Plan in connection with your adverse benefit determination will be identified, without regard to whether the advice was relied upon in making the benefit determination.
- (d) The health care professional engaged for purposes of a consultation under (b) above will be an individual who is neither an individual who was consulted in connection with the adverse benefit determination that is the subject of the appeal, nor the subordinate of any such individual.

The Plan Administrator will provide you with written or electronic notification of the Plan's benefit determination on review. The Plan Administrator must provide you with notification of this denial within 60 days after the Plan Administrator's receipt of your written claim for review, unless the Plan Administrator determines that special circumstances require an extension of time for processing your claim. If

the Plan Administrator determines that an extension of time for processing is required, written notice of the extension will be furnished to you prior to the termination of the initial 60-day period. In no event will such extension exceed a period of 60 days from the end of the initial period. The extension notice will indicate the special circumstances requiring an extension of time and the date by which the Plan expects to render the determination on review. However, if the claim relates to disability benefits and disability is determined by a physician, then 45 days will apply instead of 60 days in the preceding sentences. In the case of an adverse benefit determination, the notification will set forth:

- (a) The specific reason or reasons for the adverse determination.
- (b) Reference to the specific Plan provisions on which the benefit determination is based.
- (c) A statement that you are entitled to receive, upon request and free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records, and other information relevant to your claim for benefits.
- (d) In the case of disability benefits where disability is determined by a physician:
 - (i) If an internal rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion (collectively "rule") was relied upon in making the adverse determination, either the specific rule or a statement that such rule was relied upon in making the adverse determination and that a copy of that rule will be provided to you free of charge upon request.
 - (ii) If the adverse benefit determination is based on a medical necessity or experimental treatment or similar exclusion or limit, either an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination, applying the terms of the Plan to your medical circumstances, or a statement that such explanation will be provided to you free of charge upon request.

If you have a claim for benefits which is denied, then you may file suit in a state or federal court. However, in order to do so, you must file the suit no later than 180 days after the date of the Plan Administrator's final determination denying your claim.

What are my rights as a Plan Participant?

As a Participant in the Plan you are entitled to certain rights and protections under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ERISA provides that all Plan Participants are entitled to:

- (a) Examine, without charge, at the Plan Administrator's office and at other specified locations, all documents governing the Plan, including collective bargaining agreements and insurance contracts, if any, and a copy of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) filed by the Plan with the U.S. Department of Labor and available at the Public Disclosure Room of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.
- (b) Obtain, upon written request to the Plan Administrator, copies of documents governing the operation of the Plan, including collective bargaining agreements and insurance contracts, if any, and copies of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) and updated Summary Plan Description. The Plan Administrator may make a reasonable charge for the copies.
- (c) Receive a summary of the Plan's annual financial report. The Plan Administrator is required by law to furnish each Participant with a copy of this summary annual report.

In addition to creating rights for Plan Participants, ERISA imposes duties upon the people who are responsible for the operation of the Plan. The people who operate your Plan, called "fiduciaries" of the Plan, have a duty to do so prudently and in the interest of you and other Plan Participants and beneficiaries. No one, including your Employer or any other person, may fire you or otherwise discriminate against you in any way to prevent you from obtaining a pension benefit or exercising your rights under ERISA.

If your claim for a pension benefit is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, you have a right to know why this was done, to obtain copies of documents relating to the decision without charge, and to appeal any denial, all within certain time schedules.

Under ERISA, there are steps you can take to enforce the above rights. For instance, if you request a copy of Plan documents or the latest annual report from the Plan and do not receive them within 30 days, you may file suit in a federal court. In such a case, the court may require the Plan Administrator to provide the materials and pay you up to \$110 a day until you receive the materials, unless the materials were not sent because of reasons beyond the control of the Plan Administrator.

If you have a claim for benefits which is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, you may file suit in a state or federal court. In addition, if you disagree with the Plan's decision or lack thereof concerning the qualified status of a domestic relations order or a medical child support order, you may file suit in federal court. You and your beneficiaries can obtain, without charge, a copy of the Plan's QDRO procedures from the Plan Administrator.

If it should happen that the Plan's fiduciaries misuse the Plan's money, or if you are discriminated against for asserting your rights, you may seek assistance from the U.S. Department of Labor, or you may file suit in a federal court. The court will decide who should pay court costs and legal fees. If you are successful, the court may order the person you have sued to pay these costs and fees. If you lose, the court may order you to pay these costs and fees, for example, it finds your claim is frivolous.

What can I do if I have questions or my rights are violated?

If you have any questions about the Plan, you should contact the Plan Administrator. If you have any questions about this statement or about your rights under ERISA, or if you need assistance in obtaining documents from the Plan Administrator, you should contact the nearest office of the Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, listed in the telephone directory or the Division of Technical Assistance and Inquiries, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210. You may also obtain certain publications about your rights and responsibilities under ERISA by calling the publications hotline of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.

**ARTICLE XII
GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PLAN**

There is certain general information which you may need to know about the Plan. This information has been summarized for you in this Article.

Plan Name

The full name of the Plan is New England Commission of Higher Education Retirement Account.

Plan Number

The Employer has assigned Plan Number 001 to your Plan.

Plan Effective Dates

The provisions of the Plan become effective on January 1, 2019.

Other Plan Information

Plan Year. The Plan's records are maintained on a twelve-month period of time. This is known as the Plan Year. The Plan Year ends on December 31st.

The Plan will be governed by the laws of the state of the Employer's principal place of business to the extent not governed by federal law.

Benefits provided by the Plan are NOT insured by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) under Title IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 because the insurance provisions under ERISA are not applicable to this type of Plan.

Service of legal process may be made upon the Employer. Service of legal process may also be made upon the Employer's chief executive officer or Plan Administrator.

Employer Information

The Employer's name, address, business telephone number and identification number are:

New England Commission of Higher Education
3 Burlington Woods Drive Suite 100
Burlington, Massachusetts 01803
781-425-7754
82-1825330

Plan Administrator Information

The Plan Administrator is responsible for the day-to-day administration and operation of the Plan. For example, the Plan Administrator maintains the Plan records, including your account information, provides you with the forms you need to complete for Plan participation, and directs the payment of your account at the appropriate time. The Plan Administrator will also allow you to review the formal Plan document and certain other materials related to the Plan. If you have any questions about the Plan or your participation, you should contact the Plan Administrator. The Plan Administrator may designate other parties to perform some duties of the Plan Administrator, and some duties are the responsibility of the investment provider(s) to the Plan.

The Plan Administrator has the complete power, in its sole discretion, to determine all questions arising in connection with the administration, interpretation, and application of the Plan (and any related documents and underlying policies). Any such determination by the Plan Administrator is conclusive and binding upon all persons.

The name, address and business telephone number of the Plan's Administrator are:

Contact: New England Commission of Higher Education
Address: 3 Burlington Woods Drive Suite 100
Burlington, Massachusetts 01803
Telephone: 781-425-7754