

Dear Willamette ESD Employees:

Americans today are living longer, healthier lives – and spending more years in retirement. That's good news – if you've planned ahead. However, if you're depending on a pension income alone to support you in your retirement years, you may be disappointed. While your Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) is secure and will assist in supporting you, many economic and retirement experts are predicting that pension income on its own will probably not be enough to comfortably sustain an extended retirement.

In other words, you're going to need more money than you may have thought. This money will have to come from personal retirement savings. Willamette ESD offers two excellent programs through which you may contribute a portion of your current income into supplemental retirement savings accounts. Those programs are the 403(b) Tax Sheltered Annuity Program and the 457(b) Deferred Compensation Program.

The Willamette ESD section of the Carruth Compliance Consulting, Inc. (CCC) website explains the details of these programs and gives information about selecting vendors, maximum contribution limits, and who to contact with questions. All information on the website has been updated to reflect the changes and enhancements of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 (EGTRRA). The resources are available for you to make an informed decision about whether to participate.

Sincerely,

Sue Foster
Director of Fiscal Services