

YOUR MONEY, YOUR CALL

If you change districts or leave the field

Your 403(b) is yours, not your employer's. Changing jobs does not put it at risk. Here is what actually happens.

THE ACCOUNT STAYS YOURS

A 403(b) belongs to you, not to the district. If you move, retire, or step away from the education field, the balance stays invested in your name and keeps growing. What changes is the contributions, since those flow through an employer's payroll. They pause until you are contributing through an employer again.

YOUR OPTIONS

- **Leave it where it is.** It keeps growing; you simply stop adding through that employer.
- **Roll it into your new employer's plan,** if that plan accepts transfers.
- **Roll it into an IRA,** which keeps it tax-advantaged and fully in your control.
- **Keep saving through the CTA plan** if you join another California district. We can check for you.

ONE MOVE TO BE CAREFUL WITH

Cashing out is almost always the costly choice. A withdrawal before retirement age can trigger income tax and a penalty, and it ends the growth that money would have earned. If tempted, talk it through first.

MOVING IT THE RIGHT WAY

A direct transfer or rollover moves the money without taxes or penalties. The steps depend on both providers and, for a 403(b), often your district's approval, so it helps to have someone guide you. We do that with you.

Not sure what to do with it?

Bring your questions to a short call at [\(916\) 235-9800](tel:9162359800), or book a time at calendly.com/ctago. When you are ready, enroll at enroll.ctaretirementplan.org.

For educational purposes only and not individualized investment, tax, or legal advice. A direct transfer or rollover generally avoids taxes and penalties; an indirect distribution may not. Confirm your situation before moving funds. Advisory services are offered through Prudent Investor Advisors, an SEC-registered investment adviser. Registration does not imply a certain level of skill or training. © California Teachers Association retirement program.