

FIND THE HIDDEN COSTS

How to read your statement and find what you are paying

Educators are often sold plans where the fees are easy to miss, because they are spread across line items and percentages instead of shown as one clear number. Here is where to look.

WHERE THE COSTS HIDE

- The **expense ratio** of each fund, usually the largest cost and easy to overlook.
- **Administrative or recordkeeping** fees, flat or as a percentage.
- **Advisory or management** fees, if someone is paid to manage the account.
- On annuities, **mortality and expense** charges, rider fees, and a surrender schedule.

TURN THE PERCENTAGES INTO DOLLARS

A percentage feels small until you size it. Multiply your balance by the all-in percentage to see the yearly cost in dollars. An all-in cost of 1.75% on a \$50,000 balance is about **\$875 a year**, every year, whether the account rises or falls.

RED FLAGS WORTH CIRCLING

Watch for a surrender period that charges you to move your own money, mortality and expense charges that signal an annuity wrapper, an all-in cost above one percent a year, and commissions or sales charges of any kind.

THE FASTEST WAY TO KNOW

Bring your most recent statement to a short call. We will find every cost on it in a few minutes and show you the all-in number in plain dollars.

Want a second set of eyes?

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.