

Data Verification: Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Data Verification?

A Data Verification confirms certain information, reported to PERS by a member's employer(s) that will be used to compute a member's estimated and actual retirement benefit. The verification will include the member's accrued creditable service or retirement credit and the member's "final average salary."

For Tier One or Tier Two members, the verification will also include the member's Regular and Variable PERS account balances and any accumulated unused sick leave, if applicable.

A Data Verification does not cover a member's Police and Fire Unit account or the Individual Account Program and is not a benefit estimate.

Is a Data Verification required to retire?

No, a Data Verification is optional and is not required to retire. If you submit a Data Verification request and a retirement application before the Data Verification has been completed, you will receive estimated monthly benefit payments until the data verification has been completed. PERS completes the same eligibility review for data verifications that we do for retirements. PERS will calculate and pay a final benefit amount after we complete the data verification.

Why should I request a Data Verification?

A Data Verification helps you to make an informed retirement decision when the data reported to PERS by your employer(s) is verified before benefit estimates are created.

Without a Data Verification the review and validation of the data is done when you submit your retirement application.

A Data Verification is especially valuable for members who:

- Worked for multiple employers during their career
- Worked part time during their career
- Are questioning the information provided through Online Member Services or on an Annual Statement.

Is there any benefit in waiting until I am closer to my anticipated retirement date to request a Data Verification?

Yes. If you decide to request a Data Verification, PERS recommends that you wait until you are within one or two years of your anticipated retirement date so the data is as recent as possible.

How are Data Verification requests prioritized?

Requests are processed based on the date the request was received by PERS.

Is the information used in a Data Verification current?

The verification contains information up to the last calendar year for which annual earnings or losses have been credited. The period for verification of data extends to the member's original hire date with each of his/her PERS-participating employers, excluding any forfeited or refunded time.

If I request a Data Verification, will the same data shown in the verification be used to calculate my retirement benefit?

If PERS produces a verification, a member's retirement benefit will be calculated using data that is not less than the amounts provided in the verification, except in certain circumstances. For example, Tier Two member account balances and Variable Annuity Program account balances will be adjusted for earnings or losses up to the member's effective retirement date. Accumulated unused sick leave will be adjusted for leave accrued and used after the date specified in the verification.

Also, at retirement PERS can use an amount less than an amount provided in the verification if the member knew the verification data was inaccurate and did not file a dispute as described below.

What should I do if I think the information in my Data Verification is incorrect?

Members have 60 days after PERS provides the verification to dispute the accuracy of the data in the verification in writing.

Do I have to be retirement age to request a Data Verification?

You can request a Data Verification if you are an active or inactive Tier One, Tier Two, or OPSRP member within two years of earliest service retirement age.

Can retired members, beneficiaries, or alternate payees request a Data Verification?

No, Data Verifications are available only to Tier One/Tier Two and OPSRP active and inactive members.

Is a Data Verification the same as a benefit estimate?

No, this is not a benefit estimate. A Data Verification reviews and confirms the information used to create the benefit estimate. PERS recommends that if you choose to request a Data Verification that you do it before you create a benefit estimate online or request a written benefit estimate from PERS.

Is there a fee for a Data Verification?

One Data Verification per member is provided at no cost. Additional Data Verifications cost \$100 each.

What does a Data Verification look like?

[Click here](#) to view a sample Data Verification. Move your mouse to a field on the sample Data Verification and a pop-up box will provide more information.

Why do you need all the information you are asking for on the Data Verification form?

The information you provide helps us check that data against what your employer(s) has provided to PERS. This helps us ensure that your Data Verification is accurate.

How do I request a Data Verification?

You can request a Data Verification through PERS' [Online Member Services](#) (you will need to create an account the first time you log in to use the service), [you can download and print the Data Verification request form](#) from the PERS website, or you can request that a copy of the form be mailed to you by calling PERS Customer Service at 503-598-7377 or toll free 888-320-7377. Using Online Member Services to request a Data Verification will decrease the processing time.