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 take it away from you. Here is what actually happens.

THE ACCOUNT STAYS YOURS

Everything you contribute to a 403(b) is yours from day one, and it stays yours if you change districts. If you move, retire, or step away from the education field, the balance stays invested in your name and stays invested for you. What changes is the contributions, since those flow through an employer's payroll. They stop until you work for an employer that offers a 403(b).

YOUR OPTIONS

- **Leave it where it is.** It stays invested; 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 its tax advantages and keeps it in your name.
- **Keep saving through the CTA 403(b) Plan** if you join another California district. Most districts offer it. Not sure? Pick your district on the enrollment form. It tells you right away.

ONE MOVE TO BE CAREFUL WITH

Cashing out is often the most 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 usually 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**, or **pick a time to talk to an advisor**. 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. The CTA 403(b) Plan is officially named the CTA Retirement Savings Plan. Advisory services are provided by Prudent Investor Advisors, an SEC-registered investment adviser. Registration does not imply a certain level of skill or training. © 2026 CTA Voluntary Retirement Plans for Educators, LLC. All rights reserved.