



Gary M. Russell
Deputy Executive Director – Member Benefits
Chief Benefits Officer
State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio

Gary Russell serves as Deputy Executive Director – Member Benefits, Chief Benefits Officer for the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio. Gary joined STRS Ohio in 1991 and has more than 31 years of experience. His responsibilities include strategic planning for member benefits and directing department operations with a team of 120 associates who consistently rank in the top tier of retirement systems in providing exceptional services to members.

He is responsible for overseeing member services, benefits administration and health care services and manages pension benefits for 158,000 benefit recipients with a total annual benefit payments of more than \$7 billion, and health care benefits to 110,000 enrollees. In addition, Member Services is responsible for handling 225,000 incoming calls per year along with providing 10,000 counseling sessions and presenting group meetings to more than 12,000 members.