



INDEPENDENT BENEFITS COUNCIL

Florida's collective voice for public school employee benefits.

NEWS

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Florida's Largest Credit Union Joins The Model Plan To Help Public School Employees Save More for Retirement

*The Independent Benefits Council Gives
Suncoast Credit Union Its Seal of Approval*

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — [Suncoast Credit Union](#), the largest credit union in Florida, is the newest provider to join [The Model Plan](#), established by Florida's most influential public education groups working together as the non-profit Independent Benefits Council (IBC).

“For nearly two decades, the IBC has selected a set of preferred products within 403(b) plans so Florida's school employees can save more money for retirement. Suncoast now has our seal of approval because they have been thoroughly vetted to ensure fairness and transparency in fees and costs, and they provide high-quality services,” said Bob Cerra, executive director of the Independent Benefits Council. “Public school employees can trust that all of the providers and products in The Model Plan will help them maximize their investments for life after school.”

Suncoast joins [Equitable](#), [PlanMember Services](#), and [Security Benefit](#) as The Model Plan providers helping public school employees across Florida invest in annuities, mutual funds, or a combination of both through multi-product accounts that combine these registered products. These Investment products and the companies that provide them under The Model Plan are continually monitored to maintain the high standards and values established by the IBC.

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“At Suncoast, helping educators gain access to quality financial products is in our DNA, as we were founded by and for educators to fulfill this very purpose,” said Senior Vice President and Chief Business Development Officer Melva McKay-Bass. “Our storied history, financial strength, and extensive expertise serving the education community positions us to best address the needs of voluntary retirement saving programs for Florida’s educators.”

Founded in 1934 as the Hillsborough County Teachers Credit Union, Suncoast has decades of experience providing 403(b) and 457(b) retirement products in Florida’s public schools, in addition to 15 years of experience working with third party administrator, TSA Consulting Group.

The IBC is now working to make sure school employees know there are new options available through The Model Plan.

“Starting immediately, the IBC recommends that all Florida school districts add Suncoast Credit Union to their lineups of supplementary retirement programs, as they have successfully completed the rigorous review process required to join the Model Plan Program,” Cerra said.

For more information about The Model Plan and the IBC, visit TheModelPlan.com.

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About the Independent Benefits Council and The Model Plan

Formed in 2007 by four of Florida’s leading education groups — the Florida Education Association, the Florida Association of School Administrators, the Florida School Boards Association, and the Florida Association of District School Superintendents — the Independent Benefits Council is the only non-profit organization leading initiatives to enhance benefits offered to Florida’s public school employees and to generate cost savings for public school districts. The IBC serves as a collective voice for the most influential public education groups in the state of Florida who are working together to advocate for public school employee benefits.

Established by the IBC, the Model Plan brings together a set of preferred products for Florida’s school employees’ supplemental retirement savings within 403(b) plans. Investment products and the companies that provide them have been thoroughly vetted to ensure fairness and transparency in fees and costs, as well as high-quality performance and services. For more information about the IBC and The Model Plan, visit TheModelPlan.com.

About Suncoast Credit Union

Suncoast Credit Union is the largest credit union in the state of Florida, the 10th largest in the United States based on membership, and the 10th largest in the United States based on its \$15+ billion in assets. Chartered in 1934 as Hillsborough County Teachers Credit Union, Suncoast Credit Union currently operates 75 full-service branches and serves more than one million members in 40 counties across Florida. As a community credit union, anyone who lives, works, attends school, or worships in Suncoast Credit Union's service area is eligible for membership. In 2021, Suncoast Credit Union's field of membership was expanded to include public K-12 teachers, college educators, and educational support staff from all of Florida's 67 counties. Suncoast is passionate about community support. Since its founding in 1990, the Suncoast Credit Union Foundation has raised and donated more than \$36 million to organizations and initiatives that support the health, education, and emotional well-being of children in the communities that the credit union serves. For more information, visit suncoastcreditunion.com.