Retirement probably seems vague and far off at this stage of your life. Besides, you have other things to buy right now. Yet there are some crucial reasons to start preparing right now for retirement. You'll probably have to pay for more of your own retirement than earlier generations. So, the sooner you get started, the better.

You have one huge ally – time. Let’s say that you put $1,200 each year into a 403(b) from age 25 through age 35 (10 years) and then never put in another dime. The account earns 7 percent annually. When you retire at age 65, you’ll have $135,043 in the account.

A colleague doesn’t start saving in a 403(b) until age 35 but saves the same $1,200 per year for 30 years straight.

Despite putting in three times as much money, the other educator’s account grows to just $117,606.

You can start small and grow. Even setting aside a small portion of your paycheck each month will pay off in big dollars later. A 403(b) like the CTA Retirement Savings Plan is the easiest way to save. If you’re not already saving for retirement, sign up now.

You can afford to invest more aggressively. You have years to overcome the inevitable ups and downs of the stock market and your savings need to beat inflation.

Developing the habit of saving for retirement is easier when you are young.

Start Saving Now with the CTA Retirement Savings Plan

The only 403(b) program endorsed by the California Teachers Association

Enroll online in under 10 minutes!

More information on the CTA Member Benefits website