

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. How do I know that you will not run off with my money?** We are working with Aspire, a vendor on your list that has met the approval of Omni (or another TPA). We never are in possession of your assets. Money is sent via payroll deduction to Aspire, who, in turn directs the funds into the Ritholtz Portfolio you have selected.
- 2. How are you different from the other companies?** Ritholtz Wealth Management is a fiduciary, which means we are required to look out for your best interests. It is rare to find a fiduciary working in the 403(b) space; most companies would rather not hold themselves out to the stringent obligation of being a fiduciary, when the rules governing 403(b) plans are very loose. We have always been a fiduciary because we feel it is the best and most transparent way to work with clients. We strongly believe that all investors, especially teachers, deserve this same consideration. Being clear and upfront about what you own and what you pay is a priority for us.
- 3. What do you invest in? Are the costs high?** We have created low-cost, diversified portfolios that are very similar to how we manage money for high-net worth individuals. The funds we use, a blend of Vanguard and Dimensional Funds (DFA), have very low fund fees. Because we are a fee-only fiduciary, it is important to us that your investment assets are not hit with high fees or surrender charges because we get paid a percentage of your assets under management (your total asset under management fee of 0.85% includes the 0.40% that Ritholtz receives). Simply put, our goal and your goal is in lockstep: to grow your portfolio (and not to kill returns with exorbitant fees). Visit [403bcompare](#) to assess your existing fees on your 403(b) investments.
- 4. Aren't you just a middle man that needs to get paid?** No. We have designed different portfolios to meet investors' needs based on their risk tolerance and their time frame. The portfolio models are based on our proprietary research, and have been back-tested based on historic market returns. We also can answer personal finance questions you may have related to financial planning, insurance, estate issues, tax efficiency, financing costs, and college planning.
- 5. How do I know which portfolio to choose?** We will guide you in selecting the most appropriate portfolio based on your time frame to reaching retirement.