

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Kentucky Teachers Retirement System Update

Applicable Statute(s) or Regulation(s):

KRS 161.220 *et seq.*

History/Background:

Existing Policy. Established by law in 1938, KTRS, legally known as "Teachers Retirement System of the State of Kentucky", became operational on July 1, 1940. KTRS is classified as an "actuarial reserve, joint-contributory" system, meaning that contributions of the members and employers and the earnings from KTRS investments are placed in reserve to pay for the system's annuity obligation.

KTRS administration is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees consisting of nine members. The Board of Trustees appoints an Executive Secretary who is responsible for administering KTRS under the policies established by the Board.

KTRS membership is mandatory for all persons in eligible agencies occupying positions which require either certification or graduation from a four-year college or university as a condition of employment. Additionally, any person providing part-time or substitute teaching services that are the same or similar to those teaching services provided by full-time, certified teachers shall be a member of the retirement system, regardless of whether certification or graduation from a four-year college or university is required. University employees, however, must be employed on a full-time basis (seven-tenths or more of normal full-time service measured by the contract days remaining in the position for which they are employed) and must fill a position requiring either certification or a four-year degree in order to be eligible for membership in KTRS.

Agencies eligible for participation in KTRS include public elementary and secondary schools, regional educational cooperatives, Eastern Kentucky University, Kentucky State University, Morehead State University, Murray State University, Western Kentucky University, the Kentucky School for the Deaf, the Kentucky School for the Blind, the Workforce Development Cabinet, the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, the Kentucky Department of Education, the Education Professional Standards Board and other agencies as specified by law.

At the December board meeting, Beau Barnes from the KTRS will provide an update on critical issues facing the system.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

A sound and fiscally stable retirement system is critically important in order to attract and retain good quality teachers in the K-12 public school system.

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Commissioner of Education

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