



TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

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R. Stanley Rupnik, Interim Executive Director

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877-927-5877 (877-9-ASK-TRS)

January 15, 2021

The Honorable J.B. Pritzker, Governor
Senator Don Harmon, President of the Senate
Senator Dan McConchie, Senate Minority Leader
Representative Jim Durkin, House Minority Leader
Representative Emanuel Chris Welch, Speaker of the House
Mr. Gene Kalwarski, Cheiron, State Actuary
Mr. William R. Hallmark, Cheiron, State Actuary

Re: Final Certification of TRS FY 2022 State Funding Requirement

Gentlemen:

At its meeting on December 9, 2020, the TRS board of trustees provided final certification to the FY 2020 state contribution requirements and results of the June 30, 2020 actuarial valuation.

The contribution requirements and actuarial valuation results were submitted to the state actuary (Cheiron) for review, in accordance with Public Act 97-0694. The contribution requirements and the report were accepted by the state actuary. Cheiron continues to emphasize its concern about state pension financing. It recommends that the statutory "funding method be changed to fully fund plan benefits." (*State Actuary's Report, December 2020, page 6*)

TRS certifies two state funding requirements. One is based on Illinois statute and the other is based on the funding policy adopted by the TRS board. The board's policy, described below, is based on the TRS actuary's recommended methodology for determining contributions to a severely underfunded plan.

The certified contributions for FY 2022 both include \$400,000 in minimum benefit reimbursements and are detailed in attached Exhibit A:

- **Based on Illinois statute:** **\$5,694,106,973**
- **Based on TRS Board Actuarial Funding Policy:** **\$8,850,455,308**

Assumptions. The preliminary June 30, 2020 actuarial valuation report includes revised assumptions about the impact of the accelerated pension benefit programs originally contained in Public Act 100-0587 and extended by Public Act 101-0010.

Board Funding Policy. The TRS board's funding policy is based on an actuarial cost method (entry age normal) that assigns costs evenly over a teacher's career instead of backloading them like the statutory cost method (projected unit credit). The board policy funds all of the benefits

earned rather than 90 percent of them, and it amortizes the unfunded liability over a closed 20-year period, with subsequent increases in the unfunded liability amortized over subsequent 20-year periods. In contrast, the amortization period required by Illinois statute is a closed 50-year period.

Under the board's policy, state contributions are not limited by the state's debt service on the 2003 pension obligation bonds, and changes in actuarial assumptions are not retroactively phased in. The TRS actuary, Segal Consulting, estimates that compared to contributions required under the statutory method, the state would save about \$40 billion in financing costs for the period FY 2021-FY 2045 under the TRS board's funding policy.

Please contact TRS Director of Research Amy Z. Reynolds (areynolds@trsil.org) at 217.814.2272 with any questions about our certifications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ASR', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

R. Stanley Rupnik
Interim Executive Director

Attachments:

- TRS board resolution from December 2020 meeting and Exhibit A showing calculations
- June 30, 2020 Final Actuarial Valuation, prepared by Segal Consulting

FINAL CERTIFICATION
FY 2022 STATE CONTRIBUTION TO TRS (TWO AMOUNTS)

Resolved: To accept the results of the preliminary June 30, 2020 actuarial valuation as presented by Segal Consulting:

- Based on Illinois statute, an FY 2022 state funding amount of \$5,694,106,973, including \$400,000 for minimum retirement benefits;
- Based on the board's funding policy, an FY 2022 state funding amount of \$8,850,455,308, including \$400,000 for minimum retirement benefits;
- An FY 2022 total normal cost rate of 19.31 percent of pay, a rate that includes a total employer normal cost rate of 10.31 percent and a member contribution rate of 9.00 percent;
- An FY 2022 federal contribution rate of 10.31 percent of pay, a rate that is identical to the total employer normal cost rate.

The preliminary June 30, 2020 actuarial valuation report includes assumptions about the impact of the accelerated pension benefit programs originally contained in Public Act 100-0587 and extended by Public Act 101-0010.

The actuarial valuation reports and these amounts were submitted to and accepted by the state actuary.



R. Stanley Rupnik, Interim Executive Director
December 9, 2020

Exhibit A

Summary of State Contributions under Illinois Pension Code and Board-Adopted Actuarial Funding Policy	Fiscal Year 2022
1. Based on Statutory Funding Plan	
Total State Contribution for fiscal year 2022:	
a. Benefit Trust Reserve*:	
i. 50.29% of membership payroll	\$ 5,768,670,673
ii. Minus School Districts Contributions:	
(0.58% of membership payroll)	(66,528,518)
(6% FAS cap increases)	(4,063,578)
(10.31% of membership payroll above the Governor's salary)	(3,619,569)
iii. Minus Federal Funds Contribution	
(10.31% of membership payroll from federal funds)	(23,652,035)
iv. Minus phase-in of the effect of assumption changes	22,900,000
v. State Contribution	<u>\$ 5,693,706,973</u>
b. Guaranteed Minimum Annuity Reserve	400,000
c. Total State Contribution (current law)	<u>\$ 5,694,106,973</u>
2. Based on Board-Adopted Actuarial Funding Policy**	
a. Benefit Trust Reserve*:	
i. Normal cost plus amortization	\$ 8,947,919,008
ii. Minus School Districts Contributions:	
(0.58% of membership payroll)	(66,528,518)
(6% FAS cap increases)	(4,063,578)
(10.31% of membership payroll above the Governor's salary)	(3,619,569)
iii. Minus Federal Funds Contribution	
(10.31% of membership payroll from federal funds)	(23,652,035)
iv. State Contribution	<u>\$ 8,850,055,308</u>
b. Guaranteed Minimum Annuity Reserve	400,000
c. Total State Contribution	<u>\$ 8,850,455,308</u>
3. Total Normal Cost and Employer Normal Cost Rate for Fiscal Year 2022	
a. Total Normal Cost Rate (including administrative expenses)	19.31%
b. Member Rate	<u>-9.00%</u>
c. Employer Normal Cost Rate	10.31%
4. Federal Contribution Rate (Employer Normal Cost Rate, per PA 100-0340)	10.31%

* Expected fiscal year 2022 membership payroll is \$11,470,434,147

** Board-Adopted Actuarial Funding Policy is based on the entry age normal actuarial cost method, current asset valuation method and an amortization policy as follows:

- 20-year closed amortization of Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL) beginning with Fiscal Year 2017
- Use layered amortization, with new UAAL after Fiscal Year 2017 being amortized over 20 years regardless of source
- Amortization payment increase at the rate of future State revenue growth (assumed to be 2.0%)
- Minimum total contribution is no less than the normal cost in any given year