**Notes to the Financial Statements Template**

***Instructions*** – *The**Notes to the Financial Statements template below includes sample language and schedules to be used as a guide by TRSL employers in the development of their GASB 68 note disclosures. Please be aware of the highlighted and bracketed areas (refer to legend below) of the template where the notes require employer input and/or input from the GASB 68 exhibits on the website.*

*TRSL has provided this template as a courtesy to its employers, but each employer is responsible for its own Notes to the Financial Statements. Employers should review the language and other information contained in the template with their auditors.*

***Note: The GASB 68 employer template example for cost-sharing employers may be found in the*** [***GASB 68 Implementation Guide***](http://gasb.org/jsp/GASB/Page/GASBSectionPage&cid=1176163026371)***, pages 155-161, Illustration 3a-Note Disclosures and Required Supplementary Information for a Cost-Sharing Employer (No Nonemployer Contributing Entities). Please also note that this illustration does not include nonemployer contributing entities. For cost sharing employers, GASB 68 refers to pages 48-82 in the index.***

|  |
| --- |
| **Denotes Employer Input** |
| **Denotes Input from GASB 68 Exhibits** |

**Employer Name (Agency)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**

**For the Year Ended June 30, 2015**

**Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

***Pensions***

For purposes of measuring the Net Pension Liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Teachers’ Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL), and additions to/deductions from TRSLs’ fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by TRSL. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

**General Information about the Pension Plan**

***Plan Description***

Employees of [the Agency] are provided with pensions through a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit plan administered by the Teachers’ Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL). Chapter 2 of Title 11 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes (La. R.S. 11:401) grants to TRSL Board of Trustees and the Louisiana Legislature the authority to review administration, benefit terms, investments, and funding of the plan. TRSL issues a publicly available financial report that can be obtained at www.trsl.org.

***Benefits Provided***

The following is a description of the plan and its benefits and is provided for general informational purposes only. TRSL provides retirement, deferred retirement option (DROP), disability, and survivor’s benefits. Participants should refer to the appropriate statutes for more complete information.

**Retirement Benefits:**

1. **NORMAL RETIREMENT**

**Regular Plan** - Members whose first employment makes them eligible for membership in a Louisiana state retirement system on or after January 1, 2011 may retire with a 2.5% accrual rate after attaining age sixty with at least 5 years of service credit and are eligible for an actuarially reduced benefit with 20 years of service at any age. All other members, if initially hired on or after July 1, 1999, are eligible for a 2.5% accrual rate at the earliest of age 60 with 5 years of service, age 55 with 25 years of service, or at any age with 30 years of service. Members may retire with an actuarially reduced benefit with 20 years of service at any age. If hired before July 1, 1999, members are eligible for a 2% accrual rate at the earliest of age 60 with 5 years of service, or at any age with 20 years of service and are eligible for a 2.5% accrual rate at the earliest of age 65 with 20 years of service, age 55 with 25 years of service, or at any age with 30 years of service.

**Plan A** - Members may retire with a 3.0% annual accrual rate at age 55 with 25 years of service, age 60 with 5 years of service or 30 years of service, regardless of age. Plan A is closed to new entrants.

**Plan B** - Members may retire with a 2.0% annual accrual rate at age 55 with 30 years of service, or age 60 with 5 years of service.

**Benefit Formula**

For all plans, retirement benefits are based on a formula which multiplies the final average compensation by the applicable accrual rate, and by the years of creditable service. For Regu­lar Plan and Lunch Plan B members whose first employment makes them eligible for member­ship in a Louisiana state retirement system on or after January 1, 2011, final average compen­sation is defined as the highest average 60-month period. For all other members, final average compensation is defined as the highest average 36-month period.

**Payment Options**

A retiring member is entitled to receive the maximum benefit payable until the member’s death. In lieu of the maximum benefit, the member may elect to receive a reduced benefit payable in the form of a Joint and Survivor Option, or as a lump sum that can’t exceed 36 months of the members’ maximum monthly benefit amount.

Effective July 1, 2009, members may make an irrevocable election at retirement to receive an actuarially reduced benefit which increases 2.5% annually, beginning on the first retirement anniversary date, but not before age 55 or before the retiree would have attained age 55 in the case of a surviving spouse. This option can be chosen in combination with the above options.

1. **DEFERRED RETIREMENT OPTION PROGRAM (DROP)**

In lieu of terminating employment and accepting a service retirement, an eligible member can begin participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) on the first retire­ment eligibility date for a period not to exceed the 3rd anniversary of retirement eligibility. Delayed participation reduces the three year participation period. During participation, ben­efits otherwise payable are fixed, and deposited in an individual DROP account.

Upon termination of DROP, the member can continue employment and earn additional ac­cruals to be added to the fixed pre-DROP benefit.

Upon termination of employment, the member is entitled to the fixed benefit, an additional benefit based on post-DROP service (if any), and the individual DROP account balance which can be paid in a lump sum or an additional annuity based upon the account balance.

1. **DISABILITY BENEFITS**

Active members whose first employment makes them eligible for membership in a Louisiana state retirement system before January 1, 2011, and who have five or more years of service credit are eligible for disability retirement benefits if certified by the State Medical Disability Board (SMDB) to be disabled from performing their job. All other members must have at least 10 years of service to be eligible for a disability benefit. Calculation of the disability benefit as well as the availability of a minor child benefit is determined by the plan to which the mem­ber belongs and the date on which the member’s first employment made them eligible for membership in a Louisiana state retirement system.

1. **SURVIVOR BENEFITS**

A surviving spouse with minor children of an active member with five years of creditable service (2 years immediately prior to death) or 20 years of creditable service is entitled to a benefit equal to the greater of (a) $600 per month, or (b) 50% of the member’s benefit calcu­lated at the 2.5% accrual rate for all creditable service. When a minor child(ren) is no longer eligible to receive survivor benefits, the spouse’s benefit reverts to a survivor benefit in ac­cordance with the provisions for a surviving spouse with no minor child(ren). Benefits for the minor child(ren) cease when he/she is no longer eligible.

Each minor child (maximum of 2) shall receive an amount equal to the greater of (a) 50% of the spouse’s benefit, or (b) $300 (up to 2 eligible children). Benefits to minors cease at attain­ment of age 18, marriage, or age 23 if enrolled in an approved institution of higher education.

A surviving spouse without minor children of an active member with 10 years of creditable service (2 years immediately prior to death) or 20 years of creditable service is entitled to a benefit equal to the greater of (a) $600 per month, or (b) the option 2 equivalent of the benefit calculated at the 2.5% accrual rate for all creditable service.

**Permanent Benefit Increases/Cost-of-Living Adjustments**

As fully described in Title 11 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, the System allows for the payment of permanent benefit increases, also known as cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) that are funded through investment earnings when recommended by the Board of Trustees and approved by the State Legislature.

**Optional Retirement Plan (ORP)**

The Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) was established for academic employees of public institutions of higher education who are eligible for membership in TRSL. This plan was designed to provide certain academic and unclassified employees of public institutions of higher education an optional method of funding for their retirement.

The ORP is a defined contribution pension plan which provides for portability of assets and full and immediate vesting of all contributions submitted on behalf of the affected employees to the approved providers. These providers are selected by the TRSL Board of Trustees. Monthly employer and employee contributions are invested as directed by the employee to provide the employee with future retirement benefits. The amount of these benefits is entirely dependent upon the total contributions and investment returns accumulated during the employee’s working lifetime. Employees in eligible positions of higher education can make an irrevocable election to participate in the ORP rather than TRSL and purchase annuity contracts—fixed, variable, or both—for benefits payable at retirement.

**Contributions**

The employer contribution rate is established annually under La. R.S. 11:101-11:104 by the Public Retirement Systems’ Actuarial Committee (PRSAC), taking into consideration the recommendation of the System’s actuary. Each sub plan pays a separate actuarially determined employer contribution rate. However, all assets of TRSL are used for the payment of benefits for all classes of members, regardless of their plan. The rates in effect during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015 are as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **2015 TRSL Sub Plan** | **Contributions** | |
| **Employee** | **Employer** |
| K-12 Regular Plan | 8.0% | 28.0% |
| Higher Ed Regular Plan | 8.0% | 26.4% |
| Plan A | 9.1% | 33.1% |
| Plan B | 5.0% | 30.1% |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ORP** | **Contributions** | |
| **Employee** | **Employer** |
| 2015 | 8.0 | 22.7% |

The agency’s contractually required composite contribution rate for the year ended June 30, 2015 was {insert rate} % of annual payroll, actuarially determined as an amount that, when combined with employee contributions, is expected to finance the costs of benefits earned by employees during the year, with an additional amount to finance any Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability. Contributions to the pension plan from the Agency were ${insert amount} for the year ended June 30, 2015.

**Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions**

At June 30, 2015, the Employer reported a liability of $[Exhibit 2 Column A] for its proportionate share of the Net Pension Liability. The Net Pension Liability was measured as of June 30, 2014 and the total pension liability used to calculate the Net Pension Obligation was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Agency’s proportion of the Net Pension Liability was based on a projection of the Agency’s long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating employers, actuarially determined. At June 30, 2014, the Agency’s proportion was [Exhibit 2 Column B]%, which was an increase of [Exhibit 2 Column D]% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2013.

For the year ended June 30, 2015, the Agency recognized pension expense of $[Exhibit 2 Column E} plus employer’s amortization of change in proportionate share and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions, $[insert amount from Exhibit 4a, Total (4+5), 2015].

At June 30, 2015, the Agency reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:



$[insert amount] reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from Agency contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the Net Pension Liability in the year ended June 30, 2016. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:



**Actuarial Assumptions**

A summary of the actuarial methods and assumptions used in determining the total pension liability as of June 30, 2014, and 2013 are as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Actuarial cost method** | Entry Age Normal |
| **Amortization approach** | Closed |
| **Actuarial assumptions:** |  |
| **ExpectedRemaining  Service Lives** | 5 years |
| **Investment rate of return** | 7.75% net of investment expenses |
| **Inflation rate** | 2.5% per annum |
| **Projected salary increases** | 3.50% - 10.0% varies depending on duration of service |
| **Cost-of-living adjustments** | None |
| **Mortality** | Mortality rates were projected based on the RP-2000 Mortality Table with projection to 2025 using Scale AA. |
| **Termination and disability** | Termination, disability, and retirement assumptions were projected based on a five year (2008-2012) experience study of the System’s members. |

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2014 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2012.

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expenses and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation and an adjustment for the effect of rebalancing/diversification. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the pension plan’s target asset allocation as of June 30, 2014, are summarized in the following table:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Asset Class** | **Target Allocation** | **Long-Term Expected**  **Real Rate of Return** |
| Domestic equity | 31.0% | 4.71% |
| International equity | 19.0% | 5.69% |
| Domestic fixed income | 14.0% | 2.04% |
| International fixed income | 7.0% | 2.80% |
| Alternatives | 29.0 | 5.94% |

\***1*For reference only:*** *Target Allocation presented in TRSL 2014 CAFR, page 53, and*

*Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return, page 35.*

**Discount Rate**

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.75%.

The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that sponsor contributions will be made at rates equal to the difference between actuarially determined contribution rates and the member rate. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan’s fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

***Sensitivity of the Employer’s Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate***

The following presents the Employer’s proportionate share of the Net Pension Liability using the discount rate of 7.75%, as well as what the Employer’s proportionate share of the Net Pension Obligation would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage-point lower (6.75%) or one percentage-point higher (8.75%) than the current rate:



***Support of Non-employer Contributing Entities***

Contributions received by a pension plan from non-employer contributing

entities that are not in a special funding situation are recorded as revenue by the

respective pension plan. The Agency recognizes revenue in an amount equal to

their proportionate share of the total contributions to the pension plan from

these non-employer contributing entities. During the year ended June 30, 2015,

the Agency recognized revenue as a result of support received from non-

employer contributing entities of $ [Exhibit 2 Column S2] for its participation in

TRSL.

***Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position***

Detailed information about the pension plan’s fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued TRSL 2014 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report at www.trsl.org.

**Payables to the Pension Plan**

[If the Agency reported payables to TRSL, it should disclose information required by paragraph 122 of GASB 68 – Agency’s responsibility to calculate and complete disclosure].