



# Media Kit



## Retirement security in a changing world

### About TRSL

The Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) is the state's largest public retirement system with more than 191,000 members. Established in 1936, TRSL is a qualified defined benefit retirement plan under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. TRSL's primary purpose is to provide a reliable source of retirement income to members and their beneficiaries.

### Administration

TRSL is governed by a 17-member board of trustees. There are 12 elected members: representatives elected by active members in each of TRSL's seven districts; one representative for employees paid with school food service funds; one for employees of state colleges and universities; and one for members employed as a parish or city superintendent of schools. Two trustees are elected by retired members. There are four ex officio members: the state Superintendent of Education, state Treasurer, Commissioner of Administration, and Chair of the Senate retirement committee. A member of the House retirement committee is appointed to serve on the board by the Speaker of the House.

The TRSL Board sets policy and determines the investment of system funds. Members of the TRSL Board are required to complete continuing education or professional development training each year in investments, actuarial science, law, and ethics.

### Funding

Traditional defined benefit plans rely on funding from three sources: (1) employee contributions, (2) employer contributions, and (3) investment earnings of the retirement system. Retirement benefits are not based upon the amount of contributions made, but on a formula that takes into account years of service, average salary, and a benefit factor. At TRSL, most members contribute 8% of every paycheck toward their retirements. Their employers contribute a percentage of payroll for this purpose as well.

The employer contribution is calculated annually and is made up of three parts: (1) the normal cost, which is the cost of funding the benefits all active employees will earn that year; (2) that year's payment for the unfunded accrued liability (UAL); and (3) TRSL's non-investment related administrative expenses.

Historically, the normal cost has ranged between 5% and 7%. Payments to the UAL are determined annually by statute. TRSL administrative expenses are now funded through employer contributions. Employer and employee contributions are pooled and invested by the TRSL Board.

### Financial Information

As of June 30, 2017, TRSL's net assets held in trust to pay benefits amounted to \$19.5 billion.

Retirement benefit payments represent 96.8% of all TRSL pension administration expenses. Administrative costs make up less than 1.0% of TRSL expenses.

TRSL paid out more than \$2 billion in benefits in FY 2017. More than \$1.9 billion went to retirees and beneficiaries living in Louisiana, giving them buying power in their local communities.

#### TRSL Financials as of June 30, 2017

<b>Market return (gross of fees)</b>	<b>16.5%</b>
<b>Actuarial rate of return</b>	<b>9.15%</b>
<b>30-year actuarial rate of return</b>	<b>8.08%</b>

## [www.TRSL.org](http://www.TRSL.org)

#### Media Contact:

Lisa Honore, Ph.D.  
Executive Liaison Officer  
(225) 925-6446, ext. 6109  
[lisa.honore@trsl.org](mailto:lisa.honore@trsl.org)



## Benefits Summary

TRSL retirement benefits are determined by a formula defined in state law which calculates the maximum retirement benefit for which TRSL members are eligible. The formula is based upon years of service, final average compensation (FAC), and a benefit factor.

Formula	Years of service credit ×
	Final average compensation (FAC) ×
	Benefit factor (2.5% used for most members)

If a member chooses to provide beneficiary protection, their benefit would be slightly less, based on the beneficiary's age. The reduction in the benefit allows TRSL to continue benefit payments to the beneficiary after the retiree's death.

**About the FAC:** The FAC is the average of the highest three or five years of salary consecutively earned.

- A **3-year FAC** is used for individuals who first became members of a state public retirement system before January 1, 2011.
- A **5-year FAC** is used for individuals who first became members of a state public retirement system on or after January 1, 2011.

## TRSL Retirement Plans

### Regular Plan

- The majority of TRSL members belong to the Regular Plan.
- Includes individuals employed in any of the classifications defined by state law as a "teacher" for whom enrollment in TRSL is mandatory as a condition of employment, and who meet the eligibility requirements
- Members contribute 8.0% of salary toward retirement.

### Plan A

- Includes members of the School Lunch Employees' Retirement System when that system merged with TRSL on July 1, 1983
- Members continue with the same eligibility requirements as before the merger as long as they are employed as a school food service worker in one of the parishes that contribute to TRSL's Plan A (all parishes except those in Plan B, below).
- Members contribute 9.1% of salary toward retirement.

### Plan B

- This plan includes school food service employees in the parishes of Allen, Assumption, Avoyelles, Cameron, Catahoula, Concordia, DeSoto, East Feliciana, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, LaSalle, Morehouse, Orleans, Red River, St. Helena, St. John the Baptist, St. Mary, Washington, and West Feliciana.
- Plan B members also contribute to the old-age portion of Social Security, and become eligible for unreduced Social Security benefits when reaching the required age for Social Security retirement.
- Members contribute 5.0% of their salaries toward retirement.

### Optional Retirement Plan (ORP)

- Unclassified faculty members and administrators employed by institutions of higher education are eligible to participate in ORP
- ORP is a defined contribution plan, unlike the Regular Plan and Plans A and B, which are defined benefit plans
- Members choosing this option make a one-time, irrevocable election to participate in ORP and cannot re-enter TRSL's defined benefit plan

## TRSL at a glance (as of 6/30/17)

Net assets	\$19.5 billion	Total membership <sup>3</sup>	191,885
Funding ratio	64.5%	Number of active members	84,228
Employer contribution (FY 2018-19) <sup>1</sup>	26.5%	Number of annuitants & beneficiaries	77,258
Employee contribution <sup>2</sup>	8.0%	Average monthly benefit <sup>4</sup>	\$2,212

<sup>1</sup> Aggregate rate; <sup>2</sup> Regular Plan; <sup>3</sup> Includes inactive members; <sup>4</sup> For average Regular Plan service retiree