



TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

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Richard W. Ingram, Executive Director

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January 13, 2020

The Honorable J.B. Pritzker, Governor
Senator Bill Brady, Senate Minority Leader
Senator John Cullerton, President of the Senate
Representative Jim Durkin, House Minority Leader
Representative Michael Madigan, Speaker of the House
Mr. Gene Kalwarski, Cheiron, State Actuary
Mr. William R. Hallmark, Cheiron, State Actuary

Re: Final Certification of TRS FY 2021 State Funding Requirement

Gentlemen:

At its meeting on December 10, 2019, the TRS board of trustees provided final certification to the FY 2021 state contribution requirements and results of the June 30, 2019 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. For the eighth consecutive year, Cheiron emphasizes its concern about state pension financing. It recommends that the statutory "funding method be changed to fully fund plan benefits and discontinue the systematic underfunding of TRS." (*State Actuary's Report, December 2019, page 22*)

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 2021 both include \$400,000 in minimum benefit reimbursements and are detailed in attached Exhibit A:

- **Based on Illinois statute:** **\$5,140,736,721**
- **Based on TRS Board Actuarial Funding Policy:** **\$8,344,196,301**

Assumptions. The preliminary June 30, 2019 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.

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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 "Richard W. Ingram". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "I".

Richard W. Ingram
Executive Director

Attachments:

- TRS board resolution from December 2019 meeting and Exhibit A showing calculations
- June 30, 2019 Final Actuarial Valuation, prepared by Segal Consulting



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Richard W. Ingram, Executive Director

FINAL CERTIFICATION FY 2021 STATE CONTRIBUTION TO TRS (TWO AMOUNTS)

I certify that the following resolution was adopted during the Regular Board meeting of the TRS Board of Trustees on December 10, 2019:

Resolved: To accept the results of the June 30, 2019 actuarial valuation prepared by Segal Consulting and to provide final certification to the following:

- Based on Illinois statute, an FY 2021 state funding amount of \$5,140,736,721, including \$400,000 for minimum retirement benefits;
- Based on the board's funding policy, an FY 2021 state funding amount of \$8,344,196,301, including \$400,000 for minimum retirement benefits;
- An FY 2021 total normal cost rate of 19.41 percent of pay, a rate that includes a total employer normal cost rate of 10.41 percent and a member contribution rate of 9.00 percent;
- An FY 2021 federal contribution rate of 10.41 percent of pay, a rate that is identical to the total employer normal cost rate.

The preliminary June 30, 2019 actuarial valuation report includes revised actuarial 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 report and these amounts were submitted to and accepted by the state actuary.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard W. Ingram', written over a horizontal line.

Richard W. Ingram, Executive Director

December 10, 2019

Exhibit A

Summary of State Contributions under Illinois Pension Code and Board-Adopted Actuarial Funding Policy	Fiscal Year 2021
1. Based on Statutory Funding Plan	
Total State Contribution for fiscal year 2021:	
a. Benefit Trust Reserve*:	
i. 47.12% of membership payroll	\$ 5,284,597,987
ii. Minus School Districts Contributions: (0.58% of membership payroll) (6% FAS cap increases) (10.41% of membership payroll above the Governor's salary)	(65,044,913) (4,119,231) (4,948,241)
iii. Minus Federal Funds Contribution (10.41% of membership payroll from federal funds)	(23,348,881)
iv. Minus phase-in of the effect of assumption changes	(46,800,000)
v. State Contribution	\$ 5,140,336,721
b. Guaranteed Minimum Annuity Reserve	400,000
c. Total State Contribution (current law)	\$ 5,140,736,721
2. Based on Board-Adopted Actuarial Funding Policy**	
a. Benefit Trust Reserve*:	
i. Normal cost plus amortization	\$ 8,441,257,567
ii. Minus School Districts Contributions: (0.58% of membership payroll) (6% FAS cap increases) (10.41% of membership payroll above the Governor's salary)	(65,044,913) (4,119,231) (4,948,241)
iii. Minus Federal Funds Contribution (10.41% of membership payroll from federal funds)	(23,348,881)
iv. State Contribution	\$ 8,343,796,301
b. Guaranteed Minimum Annuity Reserve	400,000
c. Total State Contribution	\$ 8,344,196,301
3. Total Normal Cost and Employer Normal Cost Rate for Fiscal Year 2021	
a. Total Normal Cost Rate (including administrative expenses)	19.41%
b. Member Rate	(9.00%)
c. Employer Normal Cost Rate	10.41%
4. Federal Contribution Rate (Employer Normal Cost Rate, per PA 100-0340)	10.41%

* Expected fiscal year 2021 membership payroll is \$11,214,640,162

** 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