



About TRSL

Our beginning

The Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) is a public trust fund founded on August 1, 1936. Its sole purpose is to safeguard and manage the money it holds in trust to provide retirement income for its members.

Colorful Louisiana politician, Huey P. Long, passionately championed the need for old-age pensions in the state; and he is sometimes thought to be the father of state pensions. However, it was Gov. Richard W. Leche, a Long supporter, who signed House Bill 127 into law on July 1, 1936, providing retirement benefits for working and retired public school teachers of Louisiana. That legislation, proposed by Representatives Lether E. Frazar and Charles A. Riddle, became Act 83 of 1936 and created the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL).

Employing agencies

Employers reporting to TRSL include parish and city school boards, public colleges, universities, community and technical colleges, and boards created by the state constitution that govern elementary, secondary and higher education.

Membership

In general, full-time employees of parish and city school boards (except for bus drivers, janitors, and maintenance personnel) are required to become TRSL members. Full-time, unclassified personnel in public colleges, universities, community and technical colleges, who were hired after July 1, 1991, must also become TRSL members.

Plan benefit structure

TRSL members belong to one of three retirement plans: the Regular Plan, and Plan A or Plan B for school food service workers. Each plan has slight differences in retirement eligibility requirements.

Regular Plan members make up the majority of TRSL membership, and include 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. Regular plan members contribute 8 percent of their salaries toward retirement.

Plan A members include those who were members of the School Lunch Employees' Retirement System on July 1, 1983, when that system merged with TRSL. Plan A members continue with the same eligibility requirements as before the merger, and are members of Plan A as long as they are employed as a school food service worker in one of the 46 parishes that contribute to TRSL's Plan A (all parishes except those in Plan B, below). Plan A members who change employment, who are no longer paid by school food service funds, and who are still eligible for TRSL membership must become members of the Regular Plan. Plan A members contribute 9.1 percent of their salaries toward retirement.

Plan B members include school food service employees in 20 parishes who 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. Their Social Security benefit is paid in addition to the benefit they are eligible to receive from TRSL. Plan B members contribute 5 percent of their salaries toward retirement.

Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) is an alternative retirement plan available to academic or unclassified employees of public institutions of higher education. Employees choose to participate in either TRSL's retirement plan or the ORP. The choice is irrevocable. Unlike TRSL's Regular Plan and Plans A and B, the ORP is a defined contribution plan.

Governance structure

TRSL is governed by a 16-member Board. There are 12 elected members, including: representatives elected by active members in each of TRSL's seven districts; one elected 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. There are two members elected by retirees. There are also four ex officio members including the State Superintendent of Education, the State Treasurer, and the Chairmen of the Senate and House Retirement Committees.

The Board of Trustees meets monthly, usually on the first Tuesday of the month. The Board sets policy and determines investment of System funds.

The System director is appointed by the Board. The director appoints a deputy director, an assistant director, legal counsel, a chief investment officer and a deputy chief investment officer. These executive staff members and the director of public information make up the management team, and oversee the daily operations of TRSL.

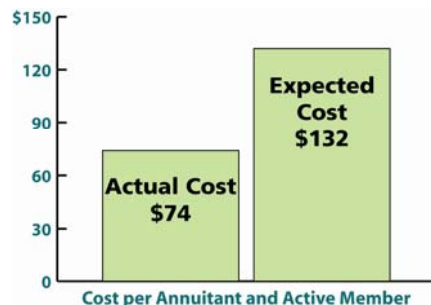
Notable developments and milestones

Benchmarking

Since 2003, TRSL has been recognized for its cost-effective administration in a benchmarking study that compares more than 50 of the leading global pension systems. CEM Benchmarking, Inc. is a global research company that conducts the study by assessing client performance and costs then comparing them against peer groups. TRSL is measured against a peer group of 11 other pension systems in four key areas that impact cost and performance: service levels, plan complexity, volume, and cost.

The latest results show that our operating costs per annuitant and active member are 44 percent lower than our predicted costs, given the number of high-level services we offer members.

- Our actual operating costs were \$74 per annuitant and active member versus our expected cost of \$132, given the number of high-level services we offer members.
- TRSL continued to perform at a high level even with increased service volumes because of hurricane-related counseling, retirements, and withdrawals. TRSL has received ratings above the peer average in several key areas of member service.
- Despite low administrative costs, we are a more complex system than our peers because our plan structure has multiple member groups and payment options as well as more complex rule sets.
- Our total membership of 153,000 active members and retirees is above the peer median of 136,300. Such economies of scale allow us to operate an efficient and effective administration.
- TRSL has been recognized for its cost-effective administration for the last four years.



Source: CEM Benchmarking Inc., 2006



Goal-Oriented Principles

To ensure that we maintain the highest standards in public pension administration, we assess operational productivity and quality of service using the Balanced Scorecard, which measures core performance indicators such as customer satisfaction, financial stewardship, public value and benefit, internal operations, as well as staff growth and development.

Rarely used outside of the private sector, the Balanced Scorecard uses business principles to measure progress toward our strategic goals and vision.

In 2006, we adopted the Balanced Scorecard, a method of measuring performance rarely used in the public sector, to assess our operational productivity and plan for the future. Much of the information throughout these pages is a result of this focused approach to excel in the core components of the Balanced Scorecard—customer satisfaction, financial stewardship, public value and benefit, internal operations, and staff growth and development.

TRSL Milestones

1936	Inception of system
1970-74	Orleans School Employees' Retirement System merged into TRSL
1979	LSU Retirement System merged into TRSL
1983	School Lunch Employees' Retirement System merged into TRSL
1987	Constitutional amendment passed requiring TRSL be fully funded by 2029
1990	Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) made available to eligible TRSL members
1992	Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) made available to eligible TRSL members

System management

Maureen H. Westgard	Director
A. Stuart Cagle, Jr.	Deputy Director
Dana L. Vicknair	Assistant Director
Roy A. Mongrue, Jr.	General Counsel
Robert S. Leggett	Chief Investment Officer
Philip Griffith	Deputy Chief Investment Officer
Lisa Honore	Public Information Director

Growth of net assets (by fiscal year)

2007	\$16.1 billion	2002	\$10.6 billion
2006	\$14.0 billion	2001	\$11.9 billion
2005	\$12.7 billion	2000	\$12.7 billion
2004	\$11.9 billion	1999	\$11.3 billion
2003	\$10.5 billion	1998	\$10.4 billion