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Professional Association of Georgia Educators

GEORGIA'S TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Benefits All Georgians

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

A strong benefit for educators

A TRS pension is a guaranteed benefit for all teachers and increases Georgia's ability to recruit and retain quality professionals. Currently, Georgia ranks 26th in the nation in median teacher salaries. A strong pension partially offsets negative impacts of lower educator pay.

Reforms such as hybridization, the conversion of TRS to a 401 (k)-like program, or elimination of cost of living adjustments could potentially harm the benefit for future educators while impacting the current pension program for current and retired educators.

Economic Impact of Georgia Pensions

Retired educators boost Georgia's economy in a big way. Each $1 in pension benefits generates $1.43 in output in the state.* This reflects the direct, indirect and induced impact of retiree spending as it ripples through Georgia's economy.

Georgia pensions:	**$4.5 Billion**
Direct impact of retiree spending:	$2.98B
Indirect impact (what recipients of retiree spending spend):	$2.04B
Induced impact (spending generated by new hires):	$1.63B
Total Impact:	**$6.65 Billion**

*www.nirsonline.org

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Contributes to a booming state economy

In fiscal year 2017, TRS paid $4.5 billion to its retirees. TRS pension benefits helped create more than 54,000 jobs in Georgia. These pension benefits supported approximately $6.65 billion in total economic output.

EDUCATORS HAVE A VOICE

TRS members serve on the TRS board

Georgia's TRS Board of Trustees is comprised of five governor appointees, two of whom must be classroom teachers, one appointee from the Board of Regents, and two appointees from the Board of Trustees, itself. Many states' boards of trustees are comprised solely of political appointees rather than plan members.

SUPPORTIVE POLICYMAKERS

Fiscally conservative leadership

Baby Boomers are retiring in large numbers with fewer workers entering the workforce to replace them. This is a challenge across the US, and Georgia is ahead of most states. TRS is in the top 10 percent of funded ratios in the U.S. Much of this is thanks to the Georgia General Assembly meeting the annual required contribution each year. Pension costs to the state are projected to decrease in the future. Please thank legislators for their commitment to TRS and encourage policymakers to continue supporting this important program.