



Online RE Portal Training now available

There is now an e-learning option for training on the new Reporting Entity (RE) Portal!

If your RE was not able to send someone to one of the training sessions held at the Education Service Centers this past spring and summer, TRS is pleased to announce an [online version](#) of the training. If your RE has experienced staff changes, your new staff may benefit from this online training. In addition, the online training is also available if you wish to review and refresh your understanding of the RE Portal training.

For those REs who did not have a representative attend the earlier training sessions, taking this online training course is the first step toward certification. In order for your RE to receive login information for the RE Portal, a representative is required to complete this online training.

If someone from your RE attended a training earlier this year, you can access the e-learning program as a resource throughout the certification process. The e-learning program will also be available after TRS implements the new reporting system.

The e-learning program is designed to complement the [Reporting Entity Portal Training Guide](#). Lessons in the e-learning program guide the user through the steps to become familiar with the new reporting system as well as submitting monthly TRS reports.

Please remember that the new RE Portal is scheduled to be implemented in September 2017, and all reporting entities must be certified in the RE Portal by **December 31, 2016**. In order to become certified, each RE must submit test files that contain at least one of each record type. Step-by-step [Certification Instructions](#) may be found on the TRS website. Please contact your reporting coach or reporting@trs.texas.gov if you need any assistance with the certification process.

2017 TRS Board election nomination forms now available online

Elections will be held in the spring of 2017 to determine the nominees presented to the governor for appointment to fill two upcoming vacancies on the TRS Board of Trustees. Both positions will be for six-year terms beginning as early as Sept. 1, 2017.

One election will be held to field nominees eligible for appointment to fill the **retiree position** on the board. Nominating petitions must be signed by 250 TRS retirees. Active members are not eligible to sign retiree election nominating petition forms.

The other election will be held to field nominees eligible for appointment to fill a new **at-large position** on the board. A change to Texas law enacted in 2011 established the new at-large position to replace what had previously been the higher education position on the board. TRS retirees as well as members who are currently employed by a higher education institution, public school district, charter school, or regional service center may run for nomination to fill this position on the board. Nominating petitions must be signed by 250 TRS retirees or members whose most recent credited service is or was performed for a higher education institution, public school district, charter school, or regional service center or a combination of retirees and eligible members.

A retiree may not run for nomination to both the retiree and at-large positions during this election period but may only declare intent to run for one position or the other. A retiree, however, may sign nominating petition forms for both the retiree and at-large positions.

When signing nominating petition forms, include your printed or typed name, the first five digits of your current residential zip code, and the last four digits of your social security number. All valid nominating petitions must be filed with TRS by Jan. 20, 2017, in order to be accepted.

To obtain the [retired member position](#) or [at-large position](#) forms, you may: print the petition form from the TRS website (www.trs.texas.gov); write TRS at 1000 Red River, Austin, TX 78701-2698; call 800-223-8778, ext. 2702; or fax a request to 512-542-6585. Nominating instructions are included on the form.

TRS launches financial awareness video series

Throughout the fall, TRS will be rolling out a series of financial awareness videos. In this series of short, animated whiteboard videos, a cast of characters will guide members through three important concepts: what they have – a TRS defined benefit plan; what they need – to save more; and how to get it – by saving smart. To learn more about the series and view the first few videos, visit the financial awareness video series [feature story](#). You can help us spread the word about the video series by displaying a [promotional poster](#).