

TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM of TEXAS

UPDATE

SUNSET ADVISORY COMMISSION INVITES PUBLIC INPUT ON THE TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF TEXAS

The Sunset Advisory Commission is reviewing the mission and performance of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) and welcomes public comments on ideas to improve its operations and services. The Texas Sunset Act requires the Sunset Commission to periodically review TRS and recommend whether to change state law to improve the agency's efficiency and effectiveness. The Legislature ultimately will decide whether to adopt Sunset's statutory recommendations. The Sunset Commission also may adopt management directives for TRS that do not require statutory change.

The Sunset process has three stages. First, Sunset staff will evaluate TRS, seek public input, and issue a report recommending solutions to problems found. Second, the Sunset Commission will hold two public meetings: a hearing on the staff report and the agency, and a decision meeting to adopt recommendations to the Legislature based on the report and public comments. Third, the Legislature will convene in January 2021 and will consider Sunset's statutory recommendations in a Sunset bill for TRS.

Here are several ways to provide comments and suggestions to Sunset staff on TRS' mission, operations, and services:

- **Send** an email to sunset@sunset.texas.gov
- **Submit** comments online at www.sunset.texas.gov
- **Send** a letter to Sunset Advisory Commission, Attn: Tamara Aronstein, P.O. Box 13066, Austin, Texas 78711
- **Call** (512) 463-1300 to speak to Tamara Aronstein, project manager of the TRS review

Please provide your comments by **December 6, 2019** to ensure Sunset staff can fully consider your input while conducting their review. Comments submitted before the staff report is published in March 2020 will remain confidential.

Stay informed! Visit www.sunset.texas.gov to sign up for email alerts on the Sunset staff report and the Sunset Commission's public meetings on TRS.

TEXAS PARTNERSHIPS

Current law incentivizes Independent School Districts (ISDs) to join with new and existing partners. According to the Texas Education Agency, an ISD can join with existing Texas partners, including current open enrollment charters. This allows non-profits, institutes of higher education, governmental entities and out-of-state school operators to become new Texas partners for ISDs.

Under current law, the partners are entitled to become a TRS-covered employer after the partnership agreement has been approved by TEA. The enrollment process is similar to other onboarding employers. The enrollment process will include a copy of the partnership agreement, if any employees of the partner meet TRS membership eligibility and when the partner will be entitled to funding from the ISD.

Once all the pertinent information has been attained, the partner will be assigned a TRS Reporting Employer number as well as instructions on how to report their employee(s) to TRS.

If a new partnership is approved by TEA, a notification will be sent to TRS from their agency. However, the partner or ISD can begin the TRS enrollment process by emailing the partnership agreement to reporting@trs.texas.gov

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HIGHER EDUCATION – FISCAL YEAR 2019 PROPORTIONALITY

As another fiscal year closes, higher education employers will begin to create and submit the APS 011 Proportionality reports to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (CPA) as well as to TRS. When submitting the reports to TRS, please send them via email to reporting@trs.texas.gov. Include the four-digit TRS reporting number as well as the fiscal year.

The reports are compiled and sent to the Texas CPA's office in the spring following the close of the fiscal year for confirmation. TRS cannot provide instructions on credits due from TRS or adjustments due to TRS until after the amounts are approved by the Texas CPA office.

TRS HOLIDAY CLOSURE

TRS will be closed **Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2019, through Friday, Nov. 29, 2019**, in observance of Thanksgiving.
