

From Your California Retired Teachers Association (CalRTA)
The Voice for More Than 200,000 Retired Educators

May 2010

CalSTRS Watch and additional pension information are available online at www.calrta.org.

Know the Facts About CalSTRS Pensions

Public pension articles appear almost daily in newspapers around the country, and the news is never good. The next time you read that the sky is falling keep these points in mind:

MYTH - Public employees now earn more than private industry workers.

FACT - A recent study by the Center for Excellence in State and Local Government (www.slge.org) shows that employees of state and local government earn an average of 11 percent and 12 percent less, respectively, than comparable private sector employees. The pay gap has widened in recent years.

MYTH - Public employees retire with lavish pensions.

FACT - Because a person's pension is calculated based on salary, age and years of service, each person's pension is different. However very few retire with exorbitant pensions. The average for all current CalSTRS retirees is \$2,700 per month, though those who retired in the 1970s and 80s receive far less.

MYTH - Public pensions are a drain on the state's economy.

FACT - Actually, every \$1 spent on pensions sees a return on investment of \$6.71 through investment earnings, money spent by retirees and taxes and fees (based on a 2007 report by CalSTRS, "The Annual Economic Impact of CalSTRS Benefit Payments.")

Helpful Resources

CalSTRS' Benefits Website – www.calstrsbenefits.us – provides helpful information on recent news articles, how the fund is doing and how to make your own plans for retirement.

The CalRTA Website – www.calrta.org – includes information on our continuing fight to protect educator pensions and highlights the progress we've made. The site also includes benefits of membership. Retired AND active educators are welcome!

Follow CalRTA on Facebook! Search for "California Retired Teachers Association" and get connected to the latest news.

We Fight to Protect Your Pension

CalRTA is the only statewide organization working to protect and enhance retirement benefits for all CalSTRS retirees. And you don't have to be retired to become a member.

Join us!

Dues are only \$42 per year! Less than the cost of a dinner out.

Go to www.calrta.org for information.



CalSTRS Watch is published by the California Retired Teachers Association (CalRTA). Please post this information so teachers and other staff covered by CalSTRS can see it. CalRTA participates in or monitors all CalSTRS activities on behalf of retired educators. CalRTA • 800 Howe Avenue, Ste. 370 • Sacramento, CA 95825 • 1-800-523-2782 • www.calrta.org

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