



Follow These Steps For Your Future

Below are three important organizations and their respective roles in providing benefits for education retirees. Check your facts, obtain information on legal and financial issues, Social Security and local ISD procedures.

Texas Retired Teachers Association

The Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) is an effective voice on legislative issues. TRTA has a legislative lobbyist, an executive director and a 21 member legislative committee who monitor bills and inform retirees about legislation. TRTA informs members about critical issues in the Texas Legislature that need urgent attention.

TRTA also encourages members to volunteer and relays information about health care, security and protection scams, and opportunities for social activities.

TRTA offers legislative updates through an up-to-the-minute web site, email newsletters and publications that represent the interests of education retirees in the Texas Legislature and in the U.S. Congress.

In addition to working for you in the Legislature, TRTA endorses benefits and discounts available to its members. These include supplemental insurance, dental and vision insurance, travel benefits, hotel and rental car discounts and health services.

STEP 1

- Attend a TRTA district/local unit retirement event.
- Study the TRTA supplemental insurance options.
- Visit www.trta.org to learn more about TRTA.

Teacher Retirement System of Texas

The Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) is a pension trust fund that has been serving the needs of Texas public education employees for over 80 years. In November 1936, voters approved an amendment to the Texas Constitution creating a statewide teacher retirement system. With the passage of enabling legislation in 1937, TRS officially was formed.

TRS retirement plan benefits are funded by member, state, and employer contributions to the trust fund, and by earnings on the investments of the fund.

TRS has two core responsibilities: to deliver retirement and related benefits that have been authorized by the Texas Legislature, and to manage the fund that finances member benefits.

TRS provides TRTA with requested data so that TRTA may propose legislation. TRS cannot influence the Texas Legislature on laws regarding any part of TRS fund. Visit www.trs.state.tx.us or call 1.800.223.8778 to learn more.

STEP 2

- Request and review the TRS Benefits Handbook.
- Request and review the TRS Estimate of Retirement Benefits.
- Study the TRS-Care benefit options, cost and prescription coverage.

Texas Legislature

TRTA is your expert representative and pension defender in the Texas Legislature. The Texas Legislature is the protector of the TRS fund and controls the procedures for distribution of the funds.

The Texas Legislature appropriates additional monies to the TRS pension trust fund to allow increases in retirees' annuities, as well as provides the funding for the health care insurance plan called TRS-Care and any benefit improvements.

TRTA keeps members informed every step of the way with a free legislative email update service called the *Inside Line*.

This service is available to anyone interested in learning more about the issues facing current and future education retirees.

Sign up for the Inside Line today at www.trta.org.

STEP 3

- Know your state Representative and Senator.
- Register and vote in the elections.
- Track bills pertaining to the TRS fund.
- Attend TRTA sponsored events during Legislative Sessions.