

Retirement Monitor, August 22, 2008 (Revised 9/17/08)

A publication for Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System human resources and payroll personnel from State Treasurer Richard H. Moore and the Retirement Systems Division

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Employer Best Practice: A Change in Return-to-Work Processing

When reporting new employees, please be sure to inquire as to whether or not they are returning to work for the same Retirement System from which they retired and are drawing a monthly benefit. State agencies should identify via the monthly ORBIT report all employees who returned to work in the same Retirement System from which they previously retired. Identifying and reporting employees using the appropriate plan codes will help protect employees from overpayments and potential loss of insurance.

Employers should identify return-to-work employees in the following manner and with the appropriate plan code:

- Contributing members may have their retirement suspended or cancelled and should be reported as **STG** or **STL**
- Non-contributing members should be reported as **STRS** – State Retired Subject to Earnable or **STRE** – State Retired Exempt from the Earnable.

*Please note that agencies that are not part of the Department of Public Instruction or recognized as an LEA should not report any retirees as **STRE** as they are not eligible for participation in this retirement plan code per the General Statutes.*

As the Retirement Systems Division moves forward with ORBIT enhancements, we will have the ability to automatically calculate the earnable allowance for interim, part-time or contractual work. We also will be able to track and inform employees of the status of their earnable allowance to ensure that they do not exceed the allowance or jeopardize future retirement benefits.

Employer Best Practice: A Change in Return-to-Work Processing for K-12 Teachers

When reporting new teachers, please be sure to ask if they are returning to work from retirement as a member of the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System (TSERS). School districts that report to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) must identify in their monthly ORBIT payroll report all employees who returned to work in the TSERS system from retirement. Teachers who are employed by other State agencies that do not report to the DPI are not eligible to participate in this program.

School districts should identify return-to-work employees with appropriate plan code – **STRE** – State Retired Exempt from the 11.7%.

Identifying and reporting employees using the appropriate plan code will help protect employees against overpayments and against potential loss of insurance.

Employers with questions regarding the return-to-work laws should contact the NC Retirement Systems Division's Employer Education and Services Unit at EESU@nctreasurer.com or call (877) 807-3131 Option 2 (for outside Raleigh area) and (919) 807-3131 Option 2 (Raleigh area only).

Retirees with questions regarding the return-to-work laws should contact the NC Retirement Systems Division's Members Services should call 1-877-733-4191, and (919) 733-4191 (Raleigh area only).

Employer Contribution Rate Processing Change

The employer contribution rates paid each month must be calculated based on the contribution rate in effect for that month. Example – if you report a member's payment on the August report, but you show a pay period begin and pay period end date of June, you must pay the employer contribution rate that is in effect for the month of August. We must assume that a payment reported on a monthly report was made in the month being reported.

Reporting Year-Round Teachers - Contract Update

It has been determined that year-round teachers should to be reported as 12-month employees since they receive 12 paychecks per year according to the Department of Public Instruction. The Retirement System grants one month of retirement credit for each month in which a member renders at least one day of service with pay. The rate at which a member accrues service credit is determined by their contract. Therefore it is extremely important that a member be reported with the appropriate contract type in the ORBIT payroll report. Please notify your vendor regarding this programming change which will take effect with your November ORBIT report.

If you have questions or need guidance regarding Employer Reporting, please contact the NC Retirement Systems Division's Employer Education and Services Unit at EESU@nctreasurer.com or call (877) 807-3131 Option 2 (for outside Raleigh area) and 807-3131 Option 2 (Raleigh area only).

2008 Employer Manuals Now Available Online

The newly updated 2008 [Employer Manual](#), a guide for human resources and benefits professionals to North Carolina's state and local government retirement benefits, is now available online. Separate editions are available for state and local government employers and both can be accessed on the employers section of the Retirement Systems Web site at www.myncretirement.com.

Please contact the Employer Education and Services Unit at EESU@nctreasurer.com if you have questions about the manuals.

2008 Legislative Digest Now Available Online

The 2008 [Legislative Digest](#), which highlights retirement-related legislation passed in the 2008 short session, is now available on the employers section of the Retirement Systems Web site at www.myncretirement.com. The digest also will be sent to employers on the Retirement Systems list serve.

Address Verification and Change

Please ensure that you have captured and provided to the Retirement Systems Division the most up-to-date addresses for your employees. Having the correct address in the system will help expedite distribution of important information, as well as the processing of retirements and disability claims. You can update your employees' addresses in your monthly reporting process on ORBIT. Please do not ask employees to call the Retirement Systems to correct their addresses, as this must come through the employer or BEACON.



ORBIT Access to Personal Retirement Information

ORBIT, Online Retirement Benefits through Integrated Technology, provides you with safe and secure access to your personal retirement account information 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To access [ORBIT](#), visit www.myncretirement.com and select the “ORBIT” button from the “Retirement” drop-down menu. You will be directed to the log-in page where you may complete your registration or log-in if you’ve already registered. (Note: if you registered prior to March 13 using the NCID process, you will need to reregister as a first-time user. This is a one time event.)

Retirement Planning Conferences for 2008

The Retirement Systems Division is holding retirement planning conferences across the state. These conferences are open to any employee seeking information regarding retirement benefits under the Local Governmental Employees’ Retirement System or the Teachers’ and State Employees’ Retirement System.

We are proud to partner with Prudential 401(k) and Great West Deferred Compensation for these conferences geared toward all members of the above retirement systems. The conferences last about 2½ hours and provide an orientation for newer members, pre-retirement planning information for members closer to retirement and education information for personnel officers and others who handle retirement matters. Registration is not required. Some locations may charge a parking fee.

Below is the schedule of Retirement Planning Conferences. **The Teachers’ and State Employees’ Retirement System sessions will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the Local Governmental Employees’ Retirement System sessions will start at 1:30 p.m.** For dates beyond what is listed below, please refer to the Employer section of the Retirement Systems website at www.myncretirement.com.

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| September 9, 2008 | FORSYTH CO AGRICULTURE BUILDING Auditorium C 1450 Fairchild Rd Winston Salem, NC |
| September 10, 2008 | SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE Myers Auditorium Room 148B 447 College Dr Sylva, NC |
| September 16, 2008 | EDGECOMBE COMMUNITY COLLEGE McIntyre Building A Auditorium 2009 West Wilson St. Tarboro, NC |
| September 18, 2008 | SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE T Building Room 101 4564 Chadbourn Hwy Whiteville, NC |
| September 23, 2008 | DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Highway Building Auditorium 1 South Wilmington St. Raleigh, NC |
| September 25, 2008 | ROANOKE-CHOWAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE Jernigan Building Auditorium |

109 Community College Rd
Ahoskie, NC

October 1, 2008 **WAKE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
Main Campus – Student Services
(Use Parking Lot L)
9101 Fayetteville Rd.
Raleigh, NC

October 7, 2008 **VERNON JAMES CENTER**
Conference Room
207 Research Station Rd.
Plymouth, NC

October 8, 2008 **CRAVEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
Dosh Siemens Advance Mfg. Facility
800 College Ct
New Bern, NC

October 14, 2008 **KANNAPOLIS TRAIN STATION**
201 S. Main St.
Kannapolis, NC

October 22, 2008 **DPS STAFF DEVELOPMENT CENTER**
M-1
2107 Hillandale Rd.
Durham, NC

October 29, 2008 **NORTH CAROLINA JUSTICE ACADEMY**
Jones Auditorium
201 N. Fayetteville St.
Salemberg, NC

The Retirement Systems Division manages retirement benefits for more than 780,000 working and retired NC public employees. The North Carolina Retirement Systems are among an elite group of public pension plans that remain fully-funded and financially sound. With approximately \$72.3 billion in assets, the Systems comprise the 10th largest public pension plan in the United States.