



Retirement Security

Education Pensions must be protected and adequately funded

1. **Kentucky teachers do not participate in Social Security**, which makes TRS their only safety net for retirement. It is essential that the Kentucky legislature maintain and adequately fund the existing defined benefit retirement systems to assure security and stability for all educators.
2. **Pensions help attract and retain high quality employees for Kentucky's public schools.**
 - a. As young educators decide where to work, one of their considerations is which state will provide the most financial security for them and their families.
 - b. About 25% of all Kentucky educators are currently eligible to retire. If all of them were to leave the profession due to unpredictability in the retirement benefit, that sudden loss of experienced, high quality teachers will adversely affect student learning.
3. **Educators expect and deserve the pensions they were promised and to which they contributed.**
 - a. Educators have always made their full required contributions to their pension systems.
 - b. Educators accepted lower salaries throughout their careers because they were promised long term security through a defined benefit pension plan they could count on in retirement.
4. **Defined Benefit Pension Plans assure long term stability**
 - a. Defined benefit pension plans like TRS provide strong long-term investment returns by maximizing the combined financial power of employer and employee contributions.
 - b. Defined benefit pension plans spread risk among a large group of contributors. Spreading investment risk helps the plan weather market fluctuations and provides long term stability for educators and retirees.