

PSERS Retired Member Newsletter

Volume 1 - 2025

A publication of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Public School Employees' Retirement System

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Publication #9463

Message from the Executive Director

On behalf of PSERS and PSERS' Board of Trustees, I want to wish you and your loved ones a very happy and healthy New Year.

As part of our mission to partner with our members to fulfill the promise of a secure retirement, PSERS distributed \$7.6 billion in total pension benefits in fiscal year 2023-24. Of this amount, \$6.8 billion, or nearly 90%, went to retired members residing within Pennsylvania. These hard-earned benefits directly support the retirements of our members in communities throughout the Commonwealth and play a pivotal role in stimulating local economies.

I am exceedingly pleased to share with you that the fund is on a healthy trajectory toward a fully funded status. We are encouraged by the positive progress of our funded ratio, which for the 7th consecutive year has improved, rising from 63.6% to 64.8% in the last fiscal year. This progress toward a fully funded status is due in large part to strong employer payroll growth and the financial commitment of Governor Shapiro, the General Assembly, and school boards through continued payment of the actuarially required funding. Being fully funded helps provide our members with the promised benefits to which they are entitled, in the most cost-effective way.

In furtherance of our mission, vision, and values, PSERS' Board and staff will continue to diligently work through the New Year by partnering with members, employers, and all of our stakeholders to fulfill the promise of a secure retirement.

Our promise to you is that *our members are at the heart of everything we do*. Whether you are just getting started in your career or are already enjoying a well-deserved retirement, we are committed to improving your satisfaction as you interact with the system.



Respectfully

Terrill (Terri) J. Sanchez
PSERS' Executive Director

2025 Payment Calendar

Missing Direct Deposit Payments

Payments sent via direct deposit (Electronic Fund Transfer [EFT]) to your financial institution should be in your account on the last business day of the month. Always check to ensure your electronic deposit is in your account on that date. If it is not, contact your financial institution to make sure the delay was not within its system. If you recently enrolled in or submitted a change to direct deposit with PSERS, verify with your financial institution the account number and routing number that you submitted to PSERS.

Payments mailed to your home address may take additional time to reach you. Contact PSERS if your check does not arrive by the 10th of the following month. For example, if your January check has not arrived by February 10, please contact PSERS. Waiting until the 10th of the month allows the post office sufficient time to forward your check to you or reroute misdirected mail. You should contact PSERS immediately if you believe that your check was stolen or destroyed.

Your monthly retirement benefit is paid on the last business day of the month for which they are due. Because PSERS group health insurance premiums are payable in advance, your medical deduction is for the next month.

Benefit for Month of:	Paid on:	Deduction of Medical Premium for:
January	January 31	February
February	February 28	March
March	March 31	April
April	April 30	May
May	May 30	June
June	June 30	July
July	July 31	August
August	August 29	September
September	September 30	October
October	October 31	November
November	November 28	December
December	December 31	January 2026

Important Security Changes to Your PSERS Member Self-Service (MSS) Account

In February, PSERS will eliminate the option of receiving your multi-factor authentication (MFA) code through email when signing into your PSERS MSS account as part of its ongoing effort to enhance security. The unique MFA code needed to access MSS will only be provided by phone, via voice call or text message.

The security of your PSERS retirement account and personal information is extremely important to us. Because hackers can often gain access to email accounts, using email to verify your identity carries a higher risk. Phone authentication requires a phone for a voice call or a cellular phone to receive a text message. This MFA method for your MSS login is more secure because such devices are typically in your physical possession.

If you have not already done so, please sign into your MSS account to ensure your phone number is up to date.

PSERS is Sending Forms 1099-R by January 31

Your *Form 1099-R* reflects the total payments issued to you from PSERS during the calendar year. The form is to be used to prepare your annual federal income tax return. PSERS issues the *Form 1099-R* during the month of January, usually starting around the middle of the month with all forms being sent by January 31.

Instead of checking a physical mailbox and waiting for mail delivery, members can electronically access their *Form 1099-R* through the MSS Portal. Through MSS, the *Form 1099-R* is electronically delivered sooner and securely with the ability to access it at any time and as often as needed. Registering for MSS enables members to receive their PSERS documents through quick, secure, and paperless delivery, with the choice to opt out of paperless delivery at any time. This means no more waiting for a paper *Form 1099-R* to be delivered in the mail. Members with paperless delivery will receive an email when their form is available.

If you are not enrolled in MSS or paperless delivery, check your mailbox for delivery of your *Form 1099-R* via USPS. If you do not receive your form by February 10, 2025, log in to your MSS account to retrieve the electronic copy or contact PSERS for a duplicate copy.

Can a Form 1099-R be requested on behalf a PSERS member?

A Form 1099-R may be requested on behalf of PSERS members by authorized individuals, such as their Power of Attorney or individuals authorized by the member in an Authorization for Release of Information (PSRS-1273) form.

If a member has passed, an appointed executor, administrator, or personal representative of the member's estate may request a Form 1099-R using the Executor Request for PSERS Documents (PSRS-1332) form.

Active Certified Board Member Departs PSERS' Board Following 7 Years of Service

PSERS active certified Trustee Jason Davis, who chaired the Investment Committee of the PSERS Board of Trustees, announced his departure from the Board at his final scheduled public meeting on Friday, December 20, 2024. He has dutifully served on the board since January 2017 as an elected member by the active certified members and participants. Before becoming chair of the Investment Committee in 2020, Davis led the Budget/Finance Committee, now the Finance and Actuarial Committee.

"After a great deal of careful consideration, I have decided to step down as a PSERS trustee to pursue other professional opportunities," Davis said. "It has been a privilege to serve in this capacity, working alongside the talented and dedicated staff at PSERS. I am proud of what we have accomplished together, and I have full confidence that the board and staff will continue to thrive in its important work."

Davis worked at Mellon Bank in institutional trust for 4 years focusing on various trusts and pensions before coming to PSERS. He is a 20-year veteran educator, teaching economics, AP microeconomics, and macroeconomics.

"I know I speak for the entire board in extending my gratitude to Jason for his outstanding leadership and dedication to PSERS as Chair of the Investment Committee," Board Chairperson Richard Vague added. "Jason's expertise, vision, and steadfast commitment has been invaluable in guiding and securing the long-term success of this organization. We are deeply grateful for his service and the exceptional work he has done in support of PSERS' mission."

Active Non-Certified Board Member Election Result

Incumbent Trustee Ann Monaghan has been re-elected to a new term on the PSERS Board of Trustees receiving approximately 75% of the vote. Monaghan's new term began January 1, 2025.

"It was an honor to receive the support of so many during this election," Monaghan said. "It reinforces my dedication to ensure PSERS remains a reliable resource for all beneficiaries, fostering growth and security for years to come. I am grateful for the trust placed in me by our members."

Monaghan, a former registrar, homeless liaison, foster care point-of contact, and attendance officer for the Wallenpaupack Area School District serving Wayne and Pike Counties, currently holds the position of principal secretary. She earned a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in secondary education from Queens College in New York City, having started her career teaching grades six through eight in Brooklyn, NY.

Additionally, Monaghan serves on the Hawley Borough Council and Hawley Sewer Authority Board. She is also an officer for Hawley Forward at the Hawley Hub, a nonprofit community center for after school programs.

Disability Annual Earnings Statement Reminder

Your Annual Earnings Statement Is Due April 30, 2025

If you are receiving a disability retirement benefit and have not yet reached normal retirement age, you are required to submit an *Annual Earnings Statement for Disability Benefits (PSRS-1266)* to PSERS to verify the gross amount of income you earned during the 2024 calendar year. This is required to be returned to PSERS even if you had no income other than your PSERS disability benefit.

If your annual earnings plus your annual disability retirement benefit exceeds your annual earnings limitation based on your last school year salary, you must return the overpaid disability supplement. You may make a lump-sum payment to PSERS within 30 days, or PSERS will withhold the disability supplement portion of the disability retirement benefit each month until the overpayment is recouped.

Note: In the year you reach normal retirement, annual earnings statements are no longer requested by PSERS. To know when you will reach normal retirement, refer to *Member Resources > Leaving Employment* on the PSERS website.



Members who have Paperless Delivery should watch their email inbox for notification of the paperless (electronic) delivery of their Annual Earnings Statement.

PSERS Board of Trustees Meetings

Visit the PSERS website for Board and Committee meeting schedules, agendas, and the live stream link.

PSERS Board meetings are held in Harrisburg at PSERS, located at 5 N 5th Street.

In addition to Board meetings, Committee meetings are held throughout the year. All PSERS Board meetings are live streamed and open to the public.

For exact meeting times or if you would like to attend and require an accommodation to participate, please contact Tivia Danner, PSERS Executive Office at tidanner@pa.gov.

Follow us

on Facebook and X for the latest!



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@PA_PSERS

When You Can Join the PSERS Health Options Program

If you didn't join the PSERS Health Options Program when you turned 65, you may have another opportunity when you experience a Qualifying Event.

You experience a Qualifying Event when:

- You retire or involuntarily lose health care coverage under your school employer's health plan. Coverage under your school employer's health plan includes any COBRA continuation coverage you may elect under that school employer's plan.
- You involuntarily lose health care coverage under a non-school employer's health plan (which includes any COBRA continuation coverage you may elect under that non-school employer's health plan).
- There is a change in your family status (including divorce, the death of a spouse, addition of a dependent through birth, adoption, or marriage, or a dependent loses eligibility).
- You reach age 65 or become eligible for Medicare.
- You become eligible for Premium Assistance due to a change in legislation.
- Your current plan terminates, or you move out of your current plan's service area.

Depending on individual circumstances, Qualifying Events may apply independently to you, your spouse, and/or your dependents. For example, if your spouse turns age 65 and becomes eligible for Medicare, he or she can choose to enroll in the PSERS Health Options Program, whether or not you also enroll.

Contact the HOP Administration Unit at 1.800.773.7725 for details.

Website

[HOPbenefits.com](https://www.hopbenefits.com)

Contact

Health Options Program enrollment or eligibility
HOP Medical Plan, Value Medical Plan, or
HOP Pre-65 Medical Plan benefits or claims:

1.800.773.7725

Premium Assistance

1.866.483.5509

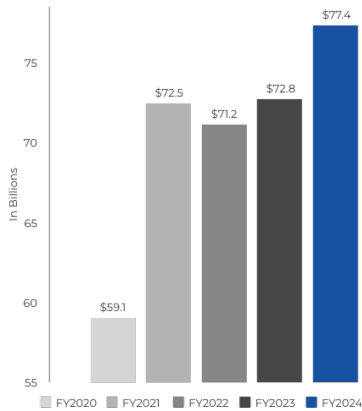
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET, weekdays

Interested in learning more about the Health Options Program?

Our virtual benefits, *discoverHOPbenefits.com*, has all the information you need as a prospective member of the Health Options Program. Visit the virtual benefits fair for helpful resources, including videos and decision support tools, from all our benefits partners.

Public School Employees' Retirement System as of June 30, 2024

Highlights of PSERS' funding as of June 30, 2024, are provided below. More detailed information is available in the *Annual Comprehensive Financial Report as of June 30, 2024 (ACFR)* and the *Summary Annual Financial Report (SAFR)*, which are available on the PSERS website, www.pa.gov/PSERS



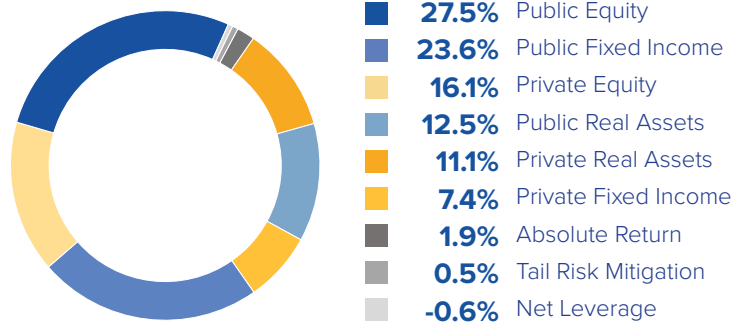
\$77.4 Billion

PSERS' Total Net Position
as of June 30, 2024

(Increased by \$4.5 billion during FY 2024)

INVESTMENT ASSET ALLOCATION as of June 30, 2024

Total investment portfolio: \$75.2 Billion



In FY 2024, PSERS earned a positive 8.14% net of fees return.

Long term, PSERS posted positive returns of 6.82% for the 10-year period ended June 30, 2024.

DC Plan

80K

DC Plan Participants
account for nearly 16% of
Total Membership

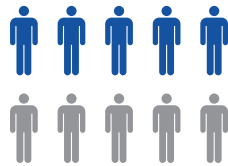


\$356 Million

Total DC Plan Balance



MEMBERSHIP



256k Active

254k Retired

BENEFITS PAID IN FY 2024



\$7.6 Billion

Benefits Paid

\$26,392

Average Yearly Benefit

REDUCING COSTS

Based on the most recent international benchmarking survey, PSERS had a 18% lower pension administration cost per member than the average cost for its peer group.

\$11.5 Million

Saved in administrative expenses
compared to peers

PSERS
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Harrisburg PA 17101-1905

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**Important Information from the
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Public School Employees' Retirement System**



Website
pa.gov/PSERS

Register for PSERS' Member Self-Service (MSS) Portal to access your retirement account online, anytime!



Call or Fax

Toll-Free: 1.888.773.7748

Local Calls: 717.787.8540

FAX: 717.772.3860



**Send us a Secure Message
through your MSS Account!**

Don't have an MSS Account?
Complete the Contact Form on our
website.

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 **@PennPSERS**