GASB 68 allocations and notes now available

TRA has posted GASB 68 disclosure documents on your employer reporting portal. They are the results of TRA’s actuarial valuation for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018.

The allocation schedules and note disclosures are labeled “audited.” The audit opinion is from the Office of the State Auditor. The GASB 68 presentation is your choice and responsibility.

Most TRA employers will find that their net pension liability (NPL) for the June 30, 2018, valuation declined substantially from the prior year. Employers will also likely encounter negative pension expense for the year. The impacts of the 2018 pension legislation are largely responsible for these results.

TRA will continue to annually provide results of the most recent GASB 67 actuarial valuation. Employers are responsible for maintaining past years’ GASB 68 results. These past years are important to maintain because calculation of deferred inflows and outflows can involve five or more years of past actuarial valuation results.

For general information, go to MinnesotaTRA.org/financial/GASB.
When one of your employees is granted a leave of absence, they have the option of paying TRA contributions on the salary lost while on leave.

To help TRA calculate the cost of the leave we require contract salary information and confirmation of the leave period. TRA also requires that the contract dates be provided. The contract dates should be the first day the teacher is to report to the school and the last day the teacher is required to report to school.

A workflow task titled, “Provide Leave Purchase Cost Information,” is sent for each employee placed on a non-extended leave of absence. Please log in to the MyTRA employer portal to complete the tasks as soon as possible to allow sufficient time for your employees to make payment of their leave by Dec. 31.

Employers may pay all or a portion of an employer’s retirement contributions for an employee who is on an extended leave of absence.

In addition, a school district is allowed to pay all or a portion of the employee’s retirement contributions while the employee is on an extended leave of absence. This agreement, for an individual teacher, is entered into between the district and the exclusive bargaining representative for the teachers of the district. You, the employer, may elect to have TRA invoice the purchase at year-end. For more information, go to MinnesotaTRA.org/employers/reporting-leave.
Teachers Retirement Association does not require licensure to become a member of the retirement fund. TRA’s definition of who is eligible is broad, and the role of the employee determines whether the person is eligible or not.

TRA covers teachers, administrators (superintendents, principals, dean of students) counselors, social workers and athletic/activity directors, to name a few.

TRA does not cover positions that provide support or operations to the school district. Such positions would be business operations staff, physical maintenance staff, food service staff, and bus drivers.

Visit MinnesotaTRA.org/employers/eligibility-rules for a list of eligible positions. Do not rely on information from a second-hand source about TRA eligibility. Contact us at 800-657-3853 or through My Message using General Employer Questions.

Not all salary earned is reportable to TRA even though it may be in the employee’s contract. Some examples of salary that should not be reported to TRA would include lump sum vacation and sick payout, any form of expense reimbursement, and cash paid in lieu of fringe benefits, to name a few. Visit MinnesotaTRA.org/employers/eligibility-rules for a complete list of what salary is eligible and what salary is not. Do not rely on information from a second hand source. Contact us at 800-657-3853 or through My Message using General Employer Questions.

Your new hires are assigned a TRA number when we receive their demographic information for the first time.

To ensure all payroll and pension contributions are accurately credited to your employees, hold off reporting any payroll until a Social Security number is available. (Non-resident aliens are typically issued a tax ID number.)

If we receive a payroll detail record with an employee’s SSN different from the SSN we have on file, we will contact you for documentation verifying the correct number (copy of SSN, I-9, etc.).