

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Q. WHO IS CONSIDERED A TRA MEMBER?

TRA pension coverage is provided to certain school employees (MS [354.05](#), subd. 2):

Administrator

Annuitant/retired teacher

It is important to note the difference between a person who has retired from teaching service and a person who has officially retired from TRA and is receiving monthly retirement benefits.

- You are not required to withhold deductions if a member is currently receiving retirement benefits from TRA and returns to teaching.
- You are required to withhold deductions if a member has retired from teaching, but has not retired from TRA (is not receiving retirement benefits from TRA), and returns to teaching.

Assistant superintendent

Athletic director/activities director

Charter school director/chief administrator hired after 7/1/2018.

Coach/head coach, certified

- A person who holds or has held a license/certificate as a head varsity coach of interscholastic sports in senior high schools issued before December 31, 1996, may continue to renew this license according to requirements of the Board of Teaching, which governs continuing education relicensure. He or she may continue TRA coverage under their current employer, as long as the member remains in the same position with the same employer.

College instructor

Community education director

Community expert

Counselor

Curriculum writer

Dean of students

Driver's education instructor

Foreign exchange teachers

Librarian

Minnesota State colleges and universities

- Newly-hired faculty that have previous service that is covered by TRA, or one of the other Minnesota public pension funds, or by the state unclassified employees' retirement program, are automatically enrolled as a member of TRA. (Minnesota Statutes 2011, Section 354b.21, effective July 1, 2011.)
- Newly-tenured faculty of Minnesota State have an opportunity to transfer retirement coverage from the individual retirement account plan (IRAP) to TRA. Faculty are eligible to elect transfer of retirement coverage to TRA any time up to one year from date of tenure. (Minnesota Statutes 2009, Section 354b.21, subd. 2. Authority expires with respect to any Minnesota State faculty initially hired after June 30, 2014.)

Nurse

- A nurse is considered to be a school nurse for TRA membership purposes if she/he is an RN and provides nursing services under the direction of the superintendent or a certificated school nurse. Nursing assistants, even if certified or an RN, are covered by PERA laws.

Pre-K teacher

Principal

Psychologist

Social worker

Special education director

Substitute teacher (short-call, long-term)

Superintendent

Supervisor

Teacher (full-time, part-time)

Therapist (e.g., speech, behavioral)

Title I instructor

Tutor

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Q. WHO IS NOT CONSIDERED A TRA MEMBER?

Certain positions are not covered by TRA and may be covered by the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) or by the Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS).

The definition of teacher, for TRA purposes, **may not include the following:**

Coach or assistant coach

Consultant/independent contractor

- Qualification under IRS rules must be established before granting exemption from TRA deductions. Refer to IRS Form SS-8 to determine if someone can be classified as a consultant or independent contractor rather than an employee.

Graduate assistants

Interpreter

Nursing assistants

Management assistant

Operational district departments

- Business
- Food services
- Physical maintenance
- Grounds maintenance
- Human resources
- Busing

Student teacher

Substitute teacher (if employed by a private company)

If a substitute teacher is employed by a private employer and all of the following conditions apply, the substitute teacher is not eligible for TRA coverage:

- The substitute teacher is an employee of the private employer;
- No direct employment relationship exists between the school district (or charter school) and the substitute teacher; and
- No Minnesota Statutes Section 122A.40 contract exists between the substitute teacher and the school district (or charter school).

Teacher's aide

Questions? Call 800-657-3669.