

To view this email as a web page, go [here](#).



Update No. 31

After great conversations last week during our Q&A sessions and with individual members, a few questions have been asked and discussed multiple times. Here’s some information on the different topics as well as additional information on action targets and events.

How does changing the Normal Retirement Age affect penalties?

Previous information on NRA changes has been general:

- Changing the NRA affects all of the accumulated penalties of earlier ages.
- This is one of the types of benefit improvements aimed at impacting the majority of plan members. It would improve the benefit of anyone in Tier 2 under 66 years of age.

Comparing penalties of Tier 2 NRA 66 (current), 65 and 64

The penalties listed are estimates based on 2024 reductions, an estimate for the year and are confirmed with TRA staff. Individual penalties vary depending on the actual date of retirement (e.g. someone retiring Feb. 1, 2024 vs. March 1, 2024, would have different penalties).

Age	Less than 30 years of Service		
	Current NRA of 66	With a NRA of 65	With a NRA of 64
55	65%	58%	51%
56	61%	54%	47%
57	57%	50%	43%
58	53%	46%	39%
59	49%	42%	35%
60	42%	35%	28%
61	35%	28%	21%
62	28%	21%	14%
63	21%	14%	7%
64	14%	7%	0%
65	7%	0%	0%
66	0%	0%	0%

Age	More than 30 years of service		
	Hired pre-7/1/2006		
	Current NRA of 66	With a NRA of 65	With a NRA of 64
55	65%	58%	51%
56	61%	54%	47%
57	57%	50%	43%
58	53%	46%	39%
59	49%	42%	35%
60	42%	35%	28%
61	35%	28%	21%
62	14.46%	10.4%	6.64%
63	10.4%	6.64%	3.18%
64	6.64%	3.18%	0%
65	3.18%	0%	0%
66	0%	0%	0%

Age	More than 30 years of service		
	Hired post-6/30/2006		
	Current NRA of 66	With a NRA of 65	With a NRA of 64
55	65%	58%	51%
56	61%	54%	47%
57	57%	50%	43%
58	53%	46%	39%
59	49%	42%	35%
60	42%	35%	28%
61	35%	28%	21%
62	16.11%	11.7%	7.55%
63	11.7%	7.55%	3.65%
64	7.55%	3.65%	0%
65	3.65%	0%	0%
66	0%	0%	0%

Effects of a threshold or age and service level benefit

When a threshold exists that creates an unreduced benefit such as the Rule of 90 or other proposals like a 62 and 30, a 60 and 30 or a 35 years of service provision, there will be varying numbers of members that will qualify. TRA estimates that a provision such as the 62 and 30 in Tier 2 would likely have about 40 percent of TRA members qualifying for it based on current trends.

When will we know if something will happen this year?

This is going to play out until the end of session. With the difficulties of one-time money instead of ongoing funding, fighting for improvements that other plans will likely not see, the density of the issue and the immense needs of the plan due to past underfunding, we knew this was likely going to be a long fight. Additionally, the pension bills always end up in the omnibus bill at the end, so it was always going to come down to a final push to get things across the line.

Pension advocacy over the last 30 years

To the question about the last 30 years, there has been lots of work done to fight for and defend educator pension plans. Many have shared their own experiences for pushing legislation like the Rule of 90 and even have their buttons from previous campaigns. As a statewide organization, in some years we've fought to maintain or even stop attacks on a defined benefit plan existing. In others we have fought and won improvements. For example, the 62 and 30 provision currently in Tier 2 didn't exist until 2013. Prior to that, it was only the base penalties. A movement of Education Minnesota members pushed to make that change to improve the benefit happen.

Action Targets

We need to place continued pressure on the governor and the commissioners appointed by him. The commissioners often have a more direct line to the governor than legislators do.

Contact the Minnesota Management and Budget and Minnesota Department of Education commissioners with our new, [easy-to-use call to action](#) to ask them to join our fight. Our goal is to emphasize the priority of pension reform now and for them to share that message with the governor. You can also use [another recent template](#) to contact your own legislators and Gov. Walz.

April 27 Pension Day of Action

Join educators from around the state this Thursday, April 27, to lobby your legislators to fix teacher pensions! [Sign up here](#). Educators should connect directly with their legislators to set up time, but we'll also have staff available to direct folks and help pull legislators from floor sessions.

We have also confirmed that both Minnesota Department of Education Commissioner Willie Jett and Minnesota Management and Budget Commissioner Jim Schowalter will be meeting with our members from 3:30 to 4 p.m. They will hear your stories, connect about teacher pension reform, and be available for questions. Both MDE and MMB have seats on the TRA board of directors.

Schedule:

1-1:30 p.m.: Legislative briefing and discussion at Education Minnesota headquarters.

1:30-4 p.m.: Time to connect with your legislators, observe legislative business from the gallery and potentially attend committee hearings.

4-4:30 p.m.: Debrief at Education Minnesota headquarters.

We'll verify membership for educators who want to join in on our briefing and debrief, but all educators are encouraged to join us at the Capitol and meet with their legislators.

Remember, we will also continue to consider the [May 20 rally](#) to be a final push to get funding and improvements across the finish line and into final bills.

May 20 Rally

One of our actions to get all of our education bills across the finish line will be an educator Rally on May 20. This will be another opportunity for members to show decision makers how important investing in educators is right now.

[Information and register here.](#)

Resources:

Organizing and Action	General Information
NEW pensions action alert	Education Minnesota pensions webpage
Legislative contact template	EdMN Capitol Connection e-newsletter
Tips for contacting your legislators	TRA document on pension basics
Find your legislators	PERA member resources

EdMN Lobby Days info	Public pension terminology
LCPR members	TRA candidate voter guide

If you've missed any past updates, they're [available on our website](#).

If you have any questions, please email [Adam Janiak](#).

Keep organizing, sharing and talking to your colleagues about our plan. [Sign up and forward this Education Minnesota Pension Updates signup today or use the QR code below!](#)

