



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD
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Office Hours
Monday - Friday: 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

BOARD MEMBERS

Clare H. Barnett, Chairperson
Hon. George A. Coleman
Hon. Patricia Wilson-Coker
Marion S. Jewell
William T. Murray, Jr.
Mary Nicholas
Rosalyn B. Schoonmaker
Eugene Cimiano
Deborah Freedman
Martin M. Lilienthal
Elaine T. Lowengard
Thomas I. Knox, Jr. M.D.

Darlene Perez, Administrator

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2005 – 2006 Legislative Session

Highlights of changes in the legislation are provided below. The specific provisions of the law may be viewed by visiting the Connecticut General Assembly website @ <http://www.cga.ct.gov>.



Effective July 1, 2006

- Under Bill 5726, Medicare Parts A and B are required to participate in the Stirling & Stirling Medical plan, the TRB sponsored health plan.
- Under Bill 5726, for Active teachers and BOE's: Early Retirement Incentive Plan (ERIP aka OHIO plan) can be offered by a town and the member can pay up to one-half of the actuarial value of the service offered under the plan. The member's share has to be paid in a lump sum payment. (Guidelines will be forthcoming)
- Under Bill 5726, for Active teachers and BOE's: If a member files for retirement, has designated his or her spouse as primary beneficiary and dies prior to the effective date of retirement, the "surviving spouse" has the option of the pre-retirement death options OR the benefits provided for under the payment option the member elected for retirement purposes.
- Under Bill 5726, Two new additions to Purchasable service: Social Work Assistant employment rendered from 1969 to 1986 and service in VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) program.
- Under Bill 5726, Teachers' Retirement has up to three months to initiate retirement benefits to a new retiree. This does not change our existing policy to strive to initiate benefits to a new July retiree within two months of the effective date.
- Under Education Bill 436, Post Retirement Employment, the Board of Education must certify on the Post Retirement Form that "There were no other qualified candidates." The form to include this language has been revised and is available on the web site.

Active Teacher Frequently Asked Questions

When will CTRB mail my 2005-2006 Member Annual Statement?

Member Annual Statements for both active and inactive members will be mailed in January, 2007 to the home address on our records. The 2005-2006 statement will reflect credited service, FTE, salary and interest postings through June 30, 2006.

What was the annual interest rate posted on June 30, 2006?

The Teachers' Retirement Board, at its June meeting, reviewed and approved the calculation of interest by the Board's actuary to be credited to membership accounts on June 30, 2006. The rate applied on June 30, 2006 to the previous June 30, 2005 balances was 9.8%. It will also be prorated and applied to service purchases and installment purchase contracts initiated in the 2006-2007 school year.

How should I notify CTRB of my new home mailing address?

Simply notify your **employer**. It will be your employer's responsibility to notify this office of the change via their next monthly transmittal report to CTRB.

How would my account be settled in the event of my death as an active teacher?

If you die while an active member of our system, this system provides for benefits to your statutory survivors. A statutory survivor is defined as a spouse and/or minor children under the age of 18 or disabled children. If you have no statutory survivors, your account balances will be paid to your designated beneficiary in a lump sum payment. For further information on this topic or to update your beneficiary election, you should obtain the **Survivorship Benefits Bulletin/Active Teacher Beneficiary Form** from our office or website.

I am planning to retire this year. How do I go about filing for my retirement benefits with CTRB?

If you are planning to retire, we strongly recommend that you file for retirement with this office at least four to six months prior to your effective date of retirement. You must file an **Application for Retirement Benefits**, along with a copy of your birth certificate. The **Filing for Retirement/ New Retiree - Questions and Answers Bulletin** provides important information regarding filing requirements, additional credited service, 1% and/or Voluntary account distribution, and new retiree procedures.

In order to estimate your monthly benefit and the cost of any potential additional credited service, obtain the Pension & Additional Credit Worksheet. All necessary forms and bulletins are available for download directly from our website www.ct.gov/trb.

What is The Henry Barnard Memorial Fund?

The purpose of The Henry Barnard Memorial Fund (HBMF) is to help needy teachers who have served but are no longer active in the teaching profession. This private fund is exclusively charitable. Its main goal is to help teachers stay independent with an adequate standard of living and maintain pride in themselves and in their profession. The Fund preserves the dignity of teachers as human beings by offering financial and other assistance in a private, professional manner. If you know a retired teacher who needs some financial assistance or if you would like to make a donation, you may visit The Henry Barnard Memorial Fund website @ <http://www.barnardfund.org> for further information.

Under what circumstances may I apply for a refund of my contribution balances with CTRB?

You may apply for a refund of your contribution balances upon termination of your Connecticut public school teaching position. You may not apply for a refund while on a leave of absence or borrow funds from your account. When you withdraw your funds, you forfeit your right to any monthly benefit that you may be eligible to receive from this system. If you have a minimum of 10 years of service, be sure to understand the amount of the potential benefit you will be forfeiting by withdrawing your funds. For further information, obtain the **Withdrawing Your CTRB Member's Deposits Packet** from our office or our website.

What happens to my benefits if I become divorced?

A court may order that your former spouse receives a portion of your retirement benefits. This can only be accomplished if a copy of the court order or judgment is filed and approved by the Teachers' Retirement Board. Such an order is commonly known as a Domestic Relations Order (DRO) and the former spouse is referred to as an Alternate Payee. For further information, you should obtain the **Divorce and CTRB Benefit Bulletin** and a **Domestic Relations Order Sample** from our office or website.



Board Election Results

Clare Barnett was appointed Chairperson for another year. Clare has been part of the Teachers' Retirement Board since 1991 as an active teacher representative elected by her peers. She has served as Chairperson since 1993.