



**MRTA**

Missouri Retired Teachers Association  
and Public School Personnel

**877-366-MRTA**

3030 DuPont Circle  
Jefferson City, MO 65109

[www.mrta.org](http://www.mrta.org)

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## **2025 MRTA Legislative Platform**

**“MRTA is independent, non-partisan, and does not endorse political candidates.”**

### **RETIREMENT SYSTEM LEGISLATION AND POLICY**

1. MRTA strongly supports the PSRS/PEERS of Missouri Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) statute. Cost-of-living adjustments are vital to the financial stability and security of our retirees.
2. MRTA advocates for the restoration of the COLA the PSRS/PEERS Board of Trustees has reduced twice in the past thirteen years. MRTA supports the restoration of the 2011 COLA Policy levels for PSRS/PEERS of Missouri retirees.
3. MRTA advocates for PEERS retirees COLA eligibility to be consistent with the PSRS statute.
4. MRTA supports a COLA increase for the retirees of the PSRS of the City of St. Louis (last increase was in 2006) and the PSRS of Kansas City, MO (last increase was in 2008).
5. MRTA supports an increase to the limit for PSRS/PEERS of Missouri retirees who are currently COLA capped at 80%.
6. MRTA opposes any pension reductions for our active or retired teachers and education personnel (reducing the COLA, tiered plans, etc.).
7. MRTA advocates for the preservation and protection of the strong financial integrity and transparency of PSRS/PEERS.

### **STATE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES OF INTEREST TO MRTA**

1. MRTA works to protect the Missouri public pension retirement plans as defined benefit plans rather than defined contribution plans.
2. MRTA supports the current independent governance and decisions of the Boards of Trustees of the following public education retirement systems: PSRS/PEERS Retirement System of Missouri, PSRS of Kansas City, Missouri, and PSRS of the City of St. Louis.
3. MRTA supports the current statute mandated by Missouri law requiring the same health insurance premium cost and coverage for retirees as active public school employees.

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4. MRTA advocates for an increase in funding of the Foundation Formula. *MRTA supports an increase in the percentage spent on public education to the national average.*
5. MRTA supports the General Assembly funding the provisions of SB 727 (2024) which impact traditional public schools. MRTA supports the legislature following through on its statutory requirements each year until fully funded.
6. MRTA opposes all unfunded mandates which impact public schools.
7. MRTA opposes all legislation which reduces state tax revenue for public school funding.
8. MRTA opposes vouchers, education tax credits, education scholarships, and all other uses of tax dollars for private, charter, and home schools.
9. MRTA opposes the statewide expansion of charter schools but supports accountability for virtual and charter schools to be equal to that of public schools. MRTA supports requiring certificated teachers in virtual and charter schools. MRTA supports staff of virtual and charter schools to be members of PSRS/PEERS.
10. MRTA supports the recruitment and retention of public school teachers and educational staff.
11. MRTA supports the continued provisions of HB 444 (2007) which MRTA was instrumental in passing. This statute provides the Missouri state income tax exemption for public education retirees.

#### **FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES OF INTEREST TO MRTA**

1. MRTA supports legislation to repeal/modify the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Governmental Pension Offset (GPO) provisions of Social Security.
2. MRTA opposes mandatory Social Security participation for any eligible members of PSRS of Missouri.
3. MRTA opposes privatization of Social Security and a reduction in current benefit levels. PEERS of Missouri, PSRS of St. Louis, and PSRS of Kansas City, Missouri benefit greatly from Social Security.
4. MRTA supports accessible, cost-effective healthcare and prescription medications to promote financial security for all.
5. MRTA supports federal programs or policies which encourages the recruitment and retention of teachers and education employees.

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