



MRTA

Missouri Retired Teachers Association
and Public School Personnel
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2022 MRTA Legislative Platform

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

RETIREMENT SYSTEM LEGISLATION AND POLICY

1. MRTA will use all available means to restore the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) which the PSRS/PEERS Board of Trustees has reduced twice in the past eleven years. MRTA supports the restoration of the COLA to pre-2011 levels for PSRS/PEERS of MO retirees.
2. MRTA will promote legislation for a PSRS/PEERS COLA matching Social Security, where the cumulative CPI-U on the last day of the fiscal year is the COLA.
3. In order to preserve and protect the strong financial integrity and transparency of PSRS/PEERS of Missouri, MRTA will advocate for a comprehensive audit of PSRS/PEERS from the State Auditor’s Office.

STATE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES OF INTEREST TO MRTA

1. MRTA will work to protect the Missouri public pension retirement plans as defined benefit plans rather than defined contribution plans.
2. MRTA opposes any benefit reductions for PSRS/PEERS public school employees, including a tier-two defined benefit plan.
3. MRTA will support 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.
4. MRTA will work to protect/maintain access to healthcare coverage for public school retirees through the school system from which they retired as is mandated by Missouri law requiring the same premium cost and the same coverage as the active public school employees.
5. MRTA will support “equal and adequate” public school funding through increased state funding of the Foundation Formula for all public schools as mandated by the Missouri Constitution.
6. MRTA will oppose any legislation that would reduce state tax revenue for public school funding.

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7. MRTA will oppose vouchers, education tax credits, education scholarships, or any other use of tax dollars for nonpublic schools.
8. MRTA will oppose the statewide expansion of charter schools.
9. MRTA will support requiring the use of certified teachers in virtual classrooms and charter schools to be members or retirees of PSRS.
10. MRTA supports accountability for existing charter schools equal to that of public schools.
11. MRTA will support legislation to increase minimum salaries for teachers and the funding of those increases.
12. MRTA will oppose state mandated consolidation of public schools that meet state standards.
13. MRTA will work to protect/maintain the Missouri state income tax exemptions for public education retirees that MRTA was instrumental in obtaining in 2007 (HB444).

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES OF INTEREST TO MRTA

1. MRTA will support legislation to repeal/modify the WEP (Windfall Elimination Provision) and GPO (Governmental Pension Offset) provisions of Social Security.
2. MRTA will oppose mandatory Social Security for new educator members of PSRS of Missouri.
3. MRTA will oppose privatization of Social Security.
4. MRTA will oppose vouchers, education tax credits, education scholarships, or any other use of tax dollars for nonpublic schools.
5. MRTA will oppose the expansion of charter schools.
6. MRTA supports accountability for charter schools and virtual education equal to that of public schools.
7. MRTA supports accessible, cost effective healthcare to promote financial security for all.
8. MRTA supports accessible, cost effective prescription drugs to promote financial security for all.
9. MRTA supports efforts that would decrease student loan debt to encourage the recruitment and retention of teachers.

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