



Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island

ERSRI Board:

April 1, 2015

Seth Magaziner
General Treasurer
Chair

VIA EMAIL ONLY

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Thomas B. Fordham Institute
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RE: Public Records Request

Roger P. Boudreau

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]

Michael R. Boyce

Mark A. Carruole

We write in response to your March 20, 2015 request for information pursuant to the Rhode Island Access to Public Records Act (APRA). Your specific request is noted below along with our corresponding response.

Michael DiBiase

John P. Maguire

Request:

John J. Meehan

Thomas A. Mullaney

For public school teachers hired this year and who retire under your pension system, can you please tell me:

Claire M. Newell

Louis M. Prata

(1) *Does he or she receive a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) on future pension payments?*

Jean Rondeau

- If yes: What is the COLA adjustment for teachers hired this year?

Frank J. Karpinski

Executive Director

(2) *Are the COLA adjustments simple or compounded?*

(3) *If there is a rule for determining COLA in the future, what is it? (If the decision is ad hoc, what is the most recent COLA rate and what fiscal year is it applied to?)*

(4) *Would you mind providing documentation to the responses above?*

Response:

By way of background, Rhode Island underwent pension reform and passed the Rhode Island Retirement Security Act (RIRSA) in 2011. RIRSA was implemented on July 1, 2012. All teachers hired after implementation are subject to RIRSA. Rhode Island General Laws (RIGL) govern teacher retirement under RIGL § 16-16-1 to 16-16-43 which can be found at <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/>.

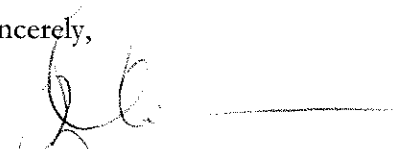
1. Information regarding Cost of Living adjustments for teachers can be found in a publication on Treasury's website entitled "Employees' Guide to Understanding the Rhode Island Retirement Security Act" under the Pension Reform tab at <http://treasury.ri.gov/rirsa/>. A copy is enclosed for your convenience.
2. Information regarding COLAs as they pertain to teachers may be found under RIGL §16-16-40(d).
3. Information regarding COLAs in the future can also be found under RIGL §16-16-40(d).
4. All of the referenced information can be found on the internet on our website: <http://content.ersri.org>; on Treasury's website: <http://treasury.ri.gov>; and on the Rhode Island General Assembly's website listing the RIGLs at <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/>.

If you contend you have been denied access to public records, pursuant to RIGL §38-2-8, you may appeal this decision to Frank J. Karpinski, Executive Director of the Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island, 50 Service Avenue, 2nd Floor, Warwick, RI 02886. You may also file a complaint with the Department of the Attorney General, 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903 or the Rhode Island Superior Court of the county where the records are maintained.

Additional information regarding the Access to Public Records Act may be found at <http://www.riag.ri.gov/civil/opengovernment>.

Thank you for your interest in keeping government open and accountable to the public.

Sincerely,



Gayle C. Mambro-Martin, Esq.
Public Records Officer