

PENSION NEWS

Retiree Newsletter



Jim Roehner, Executive Director

“I am thankful for the opportunity to continue serving public educators, librarians, and support personnel of the Kansas City School District, Kansas City Charter Schools, and the Kansas City Public Library reach their expectation of retirement income security. I also am looking forward to working with a talented team to deliver exceptional customer service and timely retirement benefit payments to the hardworking members of KCPSRS.”

AUGUST 2021

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MEET THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The KCPSRS Board of Trustees (Board) was assisted by EFL Associates in a five month-long, nationwide search for its next executive director – it was important to bring in someone who had a great mix of leadership, operational excellence, pension experience, and passion for our members. Jim Roehner was named executive director of the \$700 million Kansas City Public Schools Retirement System (KCPSRS). Mr. Roehner, who resigned as the deputy executive director of the \$3 billion Educational Employees’ Supplementary Retirement System of Fairfax County (ERFC) in April, took over for Christine Gierer, who retired on June 1. In December 2020, Ms. Gierer announced her intention to retire in June 2021. She joined KCPSRS in 2015.

Before joining KCPSRS, Mr. Roehner served 11 years as the deputy executive director of the ERFC, which administers the Fairfax County Public Schools’ defined benefit plan for more than 39,000 public teachers and school personnel. Prior to his role at ERFC, Mr. Roehner worked at the Washington Post Company and the American Red Cross in retirement benefit-based roles, respectively and various roles including a finance position, at Discovery Communications Inc.

Jim earned a master’s degree in business administration and a bachelor of science degree in political science. He and his family relocated to Kansas City from the D.C. metropolitan area.

KCPSRS OFFICE TO CONTINUE TO SERVE OUR MEMBERS REMOTELY



Due to the recent surge in COVID-19 and the Delta variant, and the significant changes to the Center of Disease Control (CDC) and local health recommendations and guidelines, KCPSRS will continue to operate remotely.

KCPSRS Staff is available to our members via phone, email, and virtual appointments.

To contact us and/or schedule your virtual appointment:

- Call (816) 472-5800
Extension #1 – Retirees/Payees (those who currently receive a

KCPSRS monthly benefit payment)

Extension #2 – Planning to Retire

Extension #3 – Refunds, Transfers and Purchase of Service

- Send documents and completed, signed forms by mail, fax, or email:

Mailing address:

3100 Broadway, Suite 1211
Kansas City, MO 64111

Fax: (816) 472-5909

Email: kcpsrs@kcpsrs.org

KCPSRS Cares:

If you've been around someone who has COVID-19, you should get tested 3-5 days after your exposure, even if you don't have symptoms. You should also wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until your test result is negative. You should isolate for 10 days if your test result is positive. If you feel sick for any reason, please stay home.

All Vaccinated and Unvaccinated

members:

- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth when indoors.
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Socially distance by at least 6 feet whenever possible.

More details may be found on the CDC website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

Vaccination efforts continue throughout the states of Missouri and Kansas. Our blog offers updated resources for more information:

<https://www.kcpsrs.org/blog/updated-covid-19-vaccine-information/>.

We trust that with mutual respect and consideration, we can reduce the risk of COVID-19 in our communities by meeting current state health and CDC safety standards. Together, we can keep each other safe. KCPSRS wishes all our members good health.

WORKING AFTER RETIREMENT

You may remember the Board of Trustees of KCPSRS approved a temporary waiver of the "working after retirement" limitations ending June 30, 2021. Now that the temporary waiver has expired, the following limitations have been reinstated:

- Post retirement work for any KCPSRS covered-employer, including placement by temporary employment agencies (e.g., Kelly Services) is limited by law.
- If you are employed full-time for

one of our employers, your retirement benefit is suspended. If you work part-time and exceed one of the following limits, your retirement benefit is suspended.

- **Hour limit:** No more than 600 hours each school year (July 1 – June 30, including summer school).
- **Salary limit:** No more than 50% of your salary when employed.

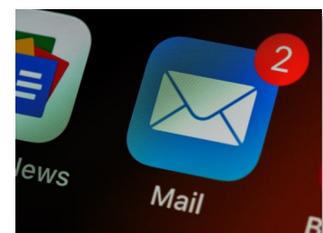
Retirees are required to maintain a

record of the hours worked and salary earned with each covered-employer. Employers and temporary agencies are also required to report these hours to KCPSRS. Since employers' reporting is often delayed, your personal record may help not only your peace of mind by keeping you within the limitations, but also your wallet as you are less likely to have your KCPSRS retirement benefit suspended or need to reimburse the Retirement System, if you exceed the limits.

PENSION NEWS IN YOUR INBOX, NOT YOUR MAILBOX!

Tired of waiting around for your mail carrier to bring you the latest issue of Pension News? Get it fast in your email instead! Send an email to kcpsrs@kcpsrs.org Write "Subscribe" in the subject line and include your name, and mailing

address in the body of your email. We will take you off the mailing list and send you the e-version of Pension News. Miss an issue? Catch up on Pension News at www.kcpsrs.org under the Publications menu.



KCPSRS SUMMARY ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2020

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Kansas City Public School Retirement System (KCPSRS) is pleased to present the Summary Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2020. This report provides a brief overview of the System's financial condition at fiscal year-end and provides a ten-year historical data

of membership changes, investment returns, and the actuarial funded ratio.

Despite the strain the effects of the Pandemic put on operations, the wild ride of 2020 reached the finish line on a high note for KCPSRS: Active membership grew thereby

increasing contributions; excess investment gains net expenses increased the actuarial funded ratio; and KCPSRS received an award of excellence in financial reporting.

In this report, we highlight some of the Plan's financials, membership data, and achievements.

ABOUT KCPSRS

KCPSRS was established in 1944 as a defined benefit plan. The plan provides lifetime pension benefits determined at retirement under formulas prescribed by Missouri law, the pension benefit is not calculated based on investment returns or contributions. KCPSRS is also governed by policies adopted by the Board of Trustees (Board). In accordance with Missouri statutes, the Board administers and operates the plan.

During the year ended December 31, 2020, there were 22 participating employers including the School District of Kansas City, Missouri; the Kansas City Public Library; the Retirement System; and the following charter schools: Académie Lafayette, Academy for Integrated Arts, Allen Village Charter School, Brookside Charter School, Citizens of the World Kansas City, Crossroads Charter Schools, DeLaSalle Charter School, Ewing Marion Kauffman School, Frontier

Schools, Genesis School, Inc., Gordon Parks Elementary, Guadalupe Center Schools, Hogan Preparatory Academy, Hope Preparatory Academy, Kansas City Girl's Preparatory Academy, Kansas City International Academy, KIPP Endeavor Academy, Lee A. Tolbert Community Academy, Scuola Vita Nuova, and University Academy.

All regular, full-time employees of the participating employers become members of KCPSRS as a condition of employment. KCPSRS has 4,108 active, contributing members; 4,099 retirees or benefit recipients; and 521 inactive vested members.

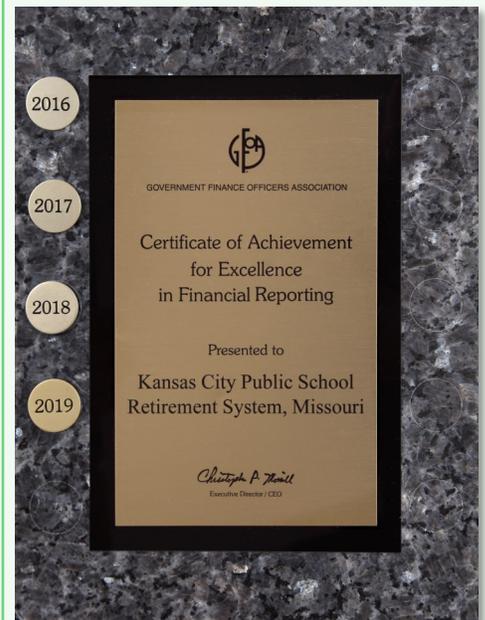
Benefits are funded by member contributions, employer contributions, and net investment returns. Investment returns have historically provided the majority of the funding for pension benefits.

LEARN MORE

The information in this summary report is taken from KCPSRS' more detailed Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (the Report), which is prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. Our 2019 report was awarded a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) as shown in the sidebar on this page. KCPSRS submitted the 2020 Report to GFOA for review and we expect to win the excellence award again for 2020. Copies of the 2020 report may be viewed or downloaded on our website, www.kcpsrs.org.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT



The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) presented an Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the Kansas City Public School Retirement System for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

FISCAL YEAR 2020

\$73.3 Million
Investment Income

\$45.3 Million
Employee/Employer
Contributions

\$80.4 Million
Benefit Payments

11.9 %
Net Investment Return

4,099
Benefit Recipients

\$694 Million
Net Trust Fund Assets

ECONOMIC IMPACT

- KCPSRS’ benefit is the major source of income to many retirees.
- Our neighbors, friends, and families spend their KCPSRS benefits in our local communities. A recent study conducted by the National Institute on Retirement Security (NIRS) measuring the economic impact of defined benefit pension expenditures found “Each \$1 in state and local pension benefits paid to Missouri residents ultimately supported \$1.50 in total output in the state.”
- The average annual benefit for retirees was nearly \$20,000.

Net Position

The *Summary Statement of Fiduciary Net Position* reports the pension plan’s financial position as of the end of the fiscal year. As of December 31, 2020, KCPSRS had \$664 million in net assets for the payment of retirement benefits.

Summary Statement of Fiduciary Net Position

(Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2020 and 2019)

	December 31, 2020	December 31, 2019
Assets		
Cash	\$ 1,270,156	\$ 1,324,695
Receivables	\$ 3,454,463	\$ 3,268,216
Investments at fair value	\$ 690,839,707	\$ 658,275,646
Other assets	\$ 75,604	\$ 82,393
Total assets	\$ 695,639,930	\$ 662,950,950
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 575,230	\$ 546,467
Investment payables	\$ 689,003	\$ 208,162
Accrued expenses	\$ 137,957	\$ 110,481
Total liabilities	\$ 1,402,190	\$ 865,110
Net positions restricted for pensions	\$ 694,237,740	\$ 662,085,840

The *Summary Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position* reports contributions, investment income, benefit expenses and expenses.

Summary Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position

(Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2020 and 2019)

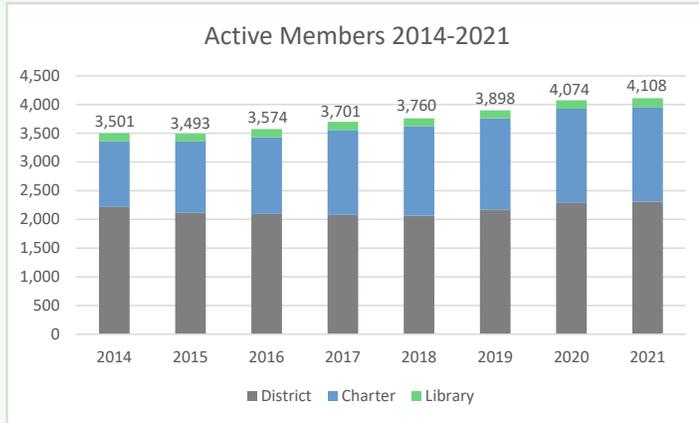
	Year Ended December 31, 2020	Year Ended December 31, 2019
Additions		
Contributions*	\$ 45,303,195	\$ 40,013,495
Net investment income	\$ 73,263,968	\$ 106,033,717
Total additions	\$ 118,567,163	\$ 146,047,212
Deductions		
Benefits payments	\$ 80,473,732	\$ 80,228,574
Member refunds	\$ 4,316,797	\$ 4,937,877
Administrative expenses	\$ 1,614,904	\$ 1,546,380
Other expenses	\$ 9,830	\$ 11,020
Total deductions	\$ 86,415,263	\$ 86,723,851
Net increase (decrease)	\$ 32,151,900	\$ 59,323,361
Beginning of year	\$ 662,085,840	\$ 602,762,479
Net positions restricted for pensions-end of year	\$ 694,237,740	\$ 662,085,840

*Includes employee and employer contributions and purchases of service credit.

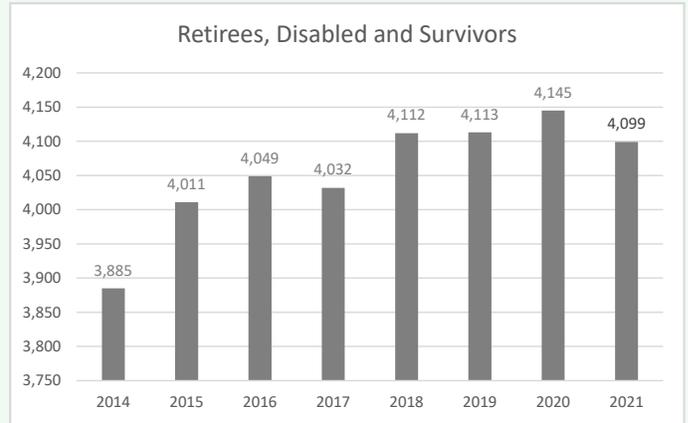
HISTORICAL MEMBER AND RETIREE DATA

As of January 1, 2021

Change in Active Members

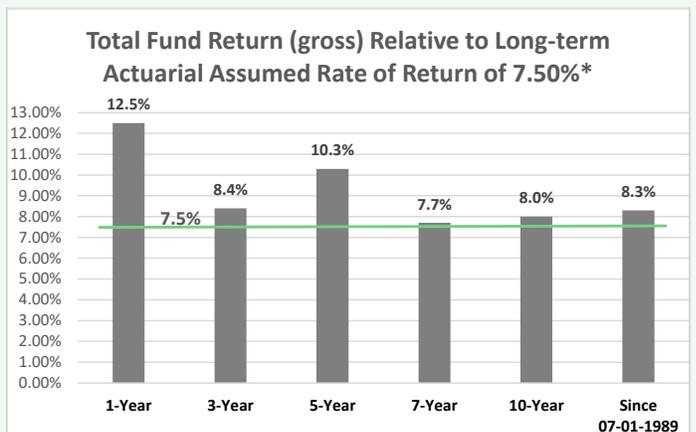
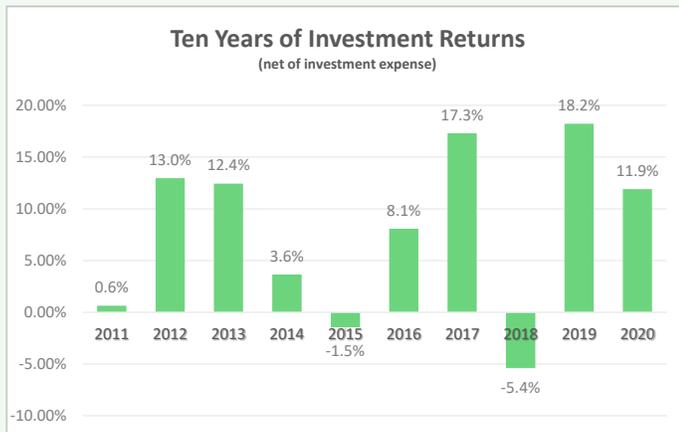


Change in Retired Members



INVESTMENT RETURN DATA

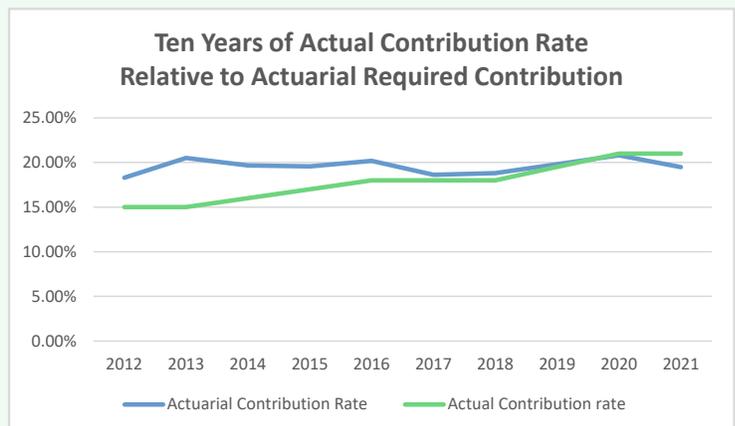
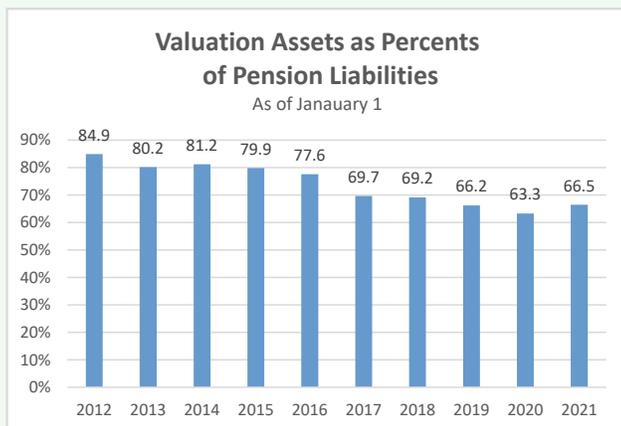
As of December 31, 2020



*In February 2021, the Board changed the actuarial assumed investment return rate to 7.25%.

ACTUARIAL FUNDED RATIO AND CONTRIBUTION RATE

As of January 1, 2021



Current law requires the total contribution rate (paid by active members and employers) to remain at or above the actuarially required rate.

KCPSRS SUCCESSES IN 2020

While 2020 was an eventful year worldwide, it was successful for KCPSRS in many ways.

\$32.2 million

Added to our total fund, which, in turn, provides a secure future for all our members

\$73.3 million

Net investment income for a strong investment return of 11.90%

\$80.4 million

Paid in retirement benefits to our retirees

KCPSRS' Funded Ratio	
January 1, 2021	January 1, 2020
66.5%	63.3%

KCPSRS' benefit is the major source of income to many retirees.

Benefit Recipients

Retirees or their survivors

4,099
benefit recipients

73.2
average age

nearly
\$20,000
average annual benefit

Active Members

Employees of the KC School District, charter schools, and KC Public Library

42.8
average age

\$55,000
average annual salary

7.4
average years of service

4,108
active members

KCPSRS Staff is proud to be a part of this System and its many achievements over the years.

We look forward to continuing to serve Kansas City and our members.

WHY WE ♥ WORKING AT KCPSRS

KCPSRS Staff were recently asked, "What is something you love about working at KCPSRS?" Here is what some of us had to say!

"I love being a part of the Retirement System and making things easy for our members. In times when things seem so overbearing or even confusing in retiring, being able to simplify the process makes it easy for our members to understand and brings so many sighs of relief." – Erica Hill, Retirement Education Specialist

"I love my job at KCPSRS because everyone shares the same vision and is dedicated to work for the best interests of our members. As we always begin by asking, "Is it good for our members?"" – Jill Chaloupka, Executive Assistant

"I love interacting with KCPSRS staff, my participating employer contacts, and members of the retirement system, active and inactive. I love talking about the benefits of our defined benefit retirement plan to all who will listen!" – Jim Lewallen, Administrative Manager

"I love being a part of a System that provides a pension benefit and interacting with our Members, especially our Retired Members. It's very rewarding to hear the voices and see the faces of those we serve." – Shannon McClain, Retiree Services Coordinator.

"I love working at KCPSRS because I enjoy what I do. I believe my background allows me to do well on my job. I like being given a task; tell me what you want done and allow me to use my best judgement to get the job done. The job I'm on now, is very important, fulfilling and is valued by my co-workers. I feel relaxed at work because of the pleasant atmosphere, the inclusiveness and the relationships I have had with directors and co-workers. KCPSRS is a place I look forward to coming to work. It takes my mind off personal problems and allows me to be engaged with others." – Virginia Jones, Part-Time Employee

"I enjoy working with a talented team of co-workers and Board of Trustees for the continued success of KCPSRS. I love the variety of my job duties helping to serve the members of our retirement system." – Laura Oswald, Associate Director



KCPSRS MISSION

The Kansas City Public School Retirement System works to fulfill the expectation of a secure retirement for the employees of the Kansas City School District, KC charter schools, and Public Library.

KCPSRS CORE VALUES

In pursuit of our mission, our work is guided and informed by four core values:

- **FIDUCIARY STEWARDSHIP**
We are legally and ethically responsible to our members to safeguard the assets that provide for their future financial security.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY**
Our principle obligation and concern is the security of member assets through efficient operations and prudent investment decisions.
- **TRANSPARENCY**
We ensure openness in all aspect of governance and operations for our members and community.
- **MEMBER FOCUSED**
We strive to make all decisions in the best interest of our members. All of our work beings with the question, "Is it good for our members?"

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR RETIRED TEACHERS

The Kansas City Association of School Retirees (KCASR) accepts applications for retired teachers in need of emergency financial assistance - maximum request is \$500. Funds may be used to assist with specific needs including, but not limited to, family funeral expenses, utilities, housing,

clothing, and prescriptions. You are required to be a certified elementary or secondary teacher but do not have to be a member of KCASR.

Applications are available to download from www.kcpsrs.org on the *Retirees* menu. Or, you may contact Loxie Stock at 1640 Cypress,

Kansas City, MO 64127 or loxiek@yahoo.com for the application form and more information.

Completed applications must be submitted to KCASR by September 30, 2021 via mail or email to Loxie Stock.



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Phone: 816-472-5800
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Email: kcpsrs@kcpsrs.org
www.kcpsrs.org

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social media**



[Facebook.com/KCPSRS](https://www.facebook.com/KCPSRS)



[youtube.com/channel/
UCiqODsv_8w0HalpY_cAsVuA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiqODsv_8w0HalpY_cAsVuA)

2021-2022 KCPSRS CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 6 KCPSRS Office closed—Labor Day
- 13 Board of Trustees meeting
- 15 Deadline to submit direct deposit & tax changes for September retirement benefits
- 29 Retirement benefit checks mailed
- 30 Retirement benefit direct deposits deposited

OCTOBER

- 4 Board of Trustees meeting
- 15 Deadline to submit direct deposit & tax changes for October retirement benefits
- 28 Retirement benefit checks mailed
- 29 Retirement benefit direct deposits deposited

NOVEMBER

- 1 Board of Trustees meeting
- 15 Deadline to submit direct deposit & tax changes for November retirement benefits
- 25-26 KCPSRS Office closed—Thanksgiving
- 29 Retirement benefit checks mailed
- 30 Retirement benefit direct deposits deposited

DECEMBER

- 6 Board of Trustees meeting
- 15 Deadline to submit direct deposit & tax changes for December retirement benefits
- 24-31 KCPSRS Office closed—Christmas
- 30 Retirement benefit checks mailed
- 31 Retirement benefit direct deposits deposited

JANUARY

- 3 Board of Trustees meeting
- 17 KCPSRS Office closed—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 18 Deadline to submit direct deposit & tax changes for January retirement benefits
- 28 Retirement benefit checks mailed
- 31 Retirement benefit direct deposits deposited

FEBRUARY

- 7 Board of Trustees meeting
- 15 Deadline to submit direct deposit & tax changes for February retirement benefits
- 21 KCPSRS Office closed—President's Day
- 25 Retirement benefit checks mailed
- 28 Retirement benefit direct deposits deposited