

# PENSION NEWS

Active Member Newsletter

## HEARTS IN THE HEARTLAND

156 hearts

2 states, 1 heartland

Hearts have represented citizens of Kansas City since the early 1900's when railroad workers wore heart pins to display their hometown spirit. Kansas City was one of the first Midwestern cities to embrace the idea being in the heartland of America. In fact, a heart patch was sewn on the

1942 Kansas City Monarchs Baseball Team championship jersey. By the mid 1990's, Mayor Cleaver II introduced a heart as the city's logo. The KC Heart t-shirts first appeared in 2011, when Charlie Hustle Clothing Brand put Kansas City's rich heritage of the heart in the city throughout the nation and around the globe. The Kansas City heart logo seen on apparel, souvenirs, and other branded merchandise *"has come to represent a resurgence of pride felt by those living in or connected to the KC region."* – according to ABOUT/Heartland legacy and inspiration@KC.org



## AUGUST 2022

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The Parade of Hearts campaign saw Kansas City residents open their hearts to raise over \$2 million for several organizations and artists in the metropolitan area. 123 local artists of varying ages and backgrounds designed 5 foot heart sculptures that depicted the artist's inspiration and unique story behind it.

Anthony High, a graduate from the Kansas City Public School District, designed two of the hearts displayed in Spring 2022. Anthony taught art for 29 years at Northeast Middle School and Paseo Academy of Fine and Performing Arts before retiring from KCSD in 2011. He continues to teach art at Metropolitan Community College – Penn Valley and UMKC.

Anthony combined his passion for sports and art in his two heart creations commemorating both the Negro League Baseball and jazz in the Kansas City area: "The Monarch Tribute" and "Historic KC." He hopes his heart sculptures unite and bring people together. Anthony found it extremely gratifying, while visiting one of his hearts, to find several families from all corners of Kansas City there visiting neighborhoods they had never been to before taking photos of his art. He also was excited to share that his painting of a Kansas City jazz trumpeter was selected by Universal Studios to be on the television show "Bel-Air" along with art by one of his students. When asked if he had a message for fellow retirees and members, Anthony responded, "You are never too old to pursue your dreams...your next piece is always the best."

# YOU CAN NOMINATE A CANDIDATE FOR THE KCPSRS

If you, or someone you know, is interested in running for a seat on the KCPSRS Board, two trustee positions will be open for nominations – one elected by the members of the Retirement System and another elected by the retirants of the Retirement System. Both positions will be elected for terms of four-years effective January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2026

**"Member"**, any person who is a regular employee after the retirement system has been established hereunder ("active member"), and any person who (i) was an active member, (ii) has vested retirement benefits hereunder, and (iii) is not receiving a retirement allowance hereunder ("inactive member"). A person shall cease to be a member if the person has a break in service before earning any vested retirement benefits or if the person withdraws his or her accumulated contributions from the retirement system.

## Nominee Qualifications:

- At the nomination meeting, any member may nominate any one or more members as candidates for the Board and, if a retirant trustee is to be elected, any retirant may nominate any one retirant as a candidate for the Board.
- The retiree nominee must be retired before or on January 1, 2023.
- Candidates must be resident taxpayers in the boundaries of the Kansas City, Missouri school district.
- Self-nominations are acceptable.

Additional information on the role and responsibility of Board Members can be found on the KCPSRS website in the About tab under Board and Staff ([www.kcpsrs.org](http://www.kcpsrs.org)).

## 2022 Election Dates:

October 3, 2022 4 p.m.  
Nominations Accepted

November 1, 2022  
Ballots are sent via email or U.S. mail

November 22, 2022  
Ballots must be received by the election service by 5 p.m.

December 5, 2022  
Election results reported to the Board of Trustees



## How To Nominate Someone:

The Board of Trustees ONLY accepts nominations during their meeting commencing at 4:00 p.m. on October 3, 2022. Options for attending Board meeting to make a nomination:

- Come to KCPSRS office at 3100 Broadway, Suite 1211. Arrive by 3:55 p.m. Social distancing practices will be in place. A mask is required while in the office building.
- Attend virtually via conference call or Zoom. For detailed instructions to attend meeting virtually, call 816-472-5800 ext. 0 or email [kcpsrs@kcpsrs.org](mailto:kcpsrs@kcpsrs.org) no later than noon on October 3, 2022.

## Election Process:

All eligible nominees will be on the KCPSRS election ballot.

- Ballots will be mailed to your home address in November and an on-line ballot will also be emailed to members and retirees for whom we have an email address.
- Ballots will include voting instructions and nominee bios for review.
- If voting by mail, complete the ballot and place it in the enclosed return envelope.
- If voting online, login to the website using your unique member number and election passcode to cast your vote. **Do not mail your ballot if you plan to vote online.**
- Only one vote per candidate will be counted.

The election results will be announced on the KCPSRS website and published in January's newsletter.

## Summary of Board of Trustees Responsibilities

The Board is responsible for:

- Ensuring the Retirement System is appropriately governed and managed with the overriding goal of protecting Fund assets.
- Creating and maintaining an atmosphere that encourages frank and collegial discussions both at the Board and Committee level and between the Board and management.
- Establishing and communicating Board policies and priorities and monitoring performance considering its established policies and priorities.

Each Board Member must:

- Act as a fiduciary of the Retirement System. *A fiduciary is a person who holds the trust and confidence of another and is charged with acting in the best interest of this individual or group.*
- Attend regular meetings of the Board of Trustees normally held at 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. the first Monday of each month, except no regular Board meetings in July or August.
- Attend special meetings of the Board, which may be held occasionally as needed.
- Complete at least six hours of Board education each year. A new Board member must complete six hours of Board orientation education within ninety days of becoming a Board member. Educational opportunities are available on-line and in person.

## Current KCPSRS Board of Trustees

### ELECTED MEMBERS

#### Active & Inactive Vested Members

Anthony Madry  
Lauren Amicone  
Roger Offield  
Jamekia Kendrix

#### Retired Members

Curtis L. Rogers  
Beverly Pratt

### APPOINTED MEMBERS

#### School District

Horace Coleman, Jr.  
Eddie Smith  
Brian Welch  
Cecelia Carter

#### Library

Debbie Siragusa

District Interim Superintendent  
Ex-Officio

# KCPSRS SUMMARY ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

## FISCAL YEAR 2021

### 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, 2021. 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.

Images of heart sculptures were used throughout this report to commemorate successes of local artists who participated in the Parade of Hearts that helped raise over \$2 million for those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Kansas City metropolitan area. All funds raised stayed in our area and went towards Education, Arts & Culture, Small Minority-owned and Women-owned Businesses, Health & Wellness and Hospitality & Tourism. This campaign made our

communities stronger than ever much like the ripple effect of our retirees spending tens of millions of dollars in pension benefits positively impacts the local economy.

In this report we acknowledge some of the Plan's achievements – a strong investment return, an award of excellence in financial reporting, and the growth in the number of active members thereby increasing the amount of contributions.

### 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. In accordance with Missouri statutes, the Board administers and operates the plan.

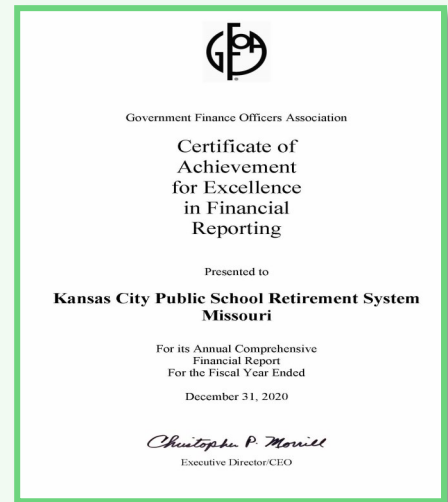
During the year ended December 31, 2021, there were 22 participating employers including the School District of Kansas City, Missouri; the Kansas City Public Library; the Retirement System; and the following charter schools: Académie Lafayette, Academy for Integrated Arts, Allen Village Charter School, 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 Leadership Academy, Kansas City International Academy, Kansas City Girl's Preparatory 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 4,178 active, contributing members; 4,094 retirees or benefit recipients; and 568 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.

### 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, 2020.*

### 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 2020 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 2021 Report to GFOA for review and we expect to win the excellence award again for 2021. Copies of the 2021 report may be viewed or downloaded on our website, [www.kcpsrs.org](http://www.kcpsrs.org).



# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## FISCAL YEAR 2021

**\$99.6 Million**  
Investment Income

**\$46.9 Million**  
Employee/Employer  
Contributions

**\$80.3 Million**  
Benefit Payments

**12.9%**  
Net Investment Return

**4,094**  
Benefit Recipients

**\$753.5 Million**  
Net Trust Fund Assets

## ECONOMIC IMPACT

- With 82.1 percent, i.e., 3,311 of 4,094 total retirees residing in the Kansas City metropolitan area, these retirees spend each year nearly \$65.9 million in pension benefits on goods and services. This, in turn, creates a ripple effect that supports the local economy by creating jobs across the metropolitan area.

- The average annual benefit for retirees was nearly \$20,000.



*City of Fountains Pouring Out Love*  
by James McGinnis

### 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, 2021, KCPSRS had \$753.5 million in net assets for the payment of retirement benefits.

#### Summary Statement of Fiduciary Net Position

(Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2021 and 2020)

	December 31, 2021	December 31, 2020
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash	\$ 1,581,584	\$ 1,270,156
Receivables	\$ 3,099,182	\$ 3,454,463
Investments at fair value	\$ 749,576,162	\$ 690,839,707
Other assets	\$ 84,267	\$ 75,604
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 754,341,195</b>	<b>\$ 695,639,930</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 613,303	\$ 575,230
Investment payables	\$ 91,318	\$ 689,003
Accrued expenses	\$ 139,184	\$ 137,957
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 843,805</b>	<b>\$ 1,402,190</b>
Net position restricted for pensions	\$ 753,497,390	\$ 694,237,740

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, 2021 and 2020)

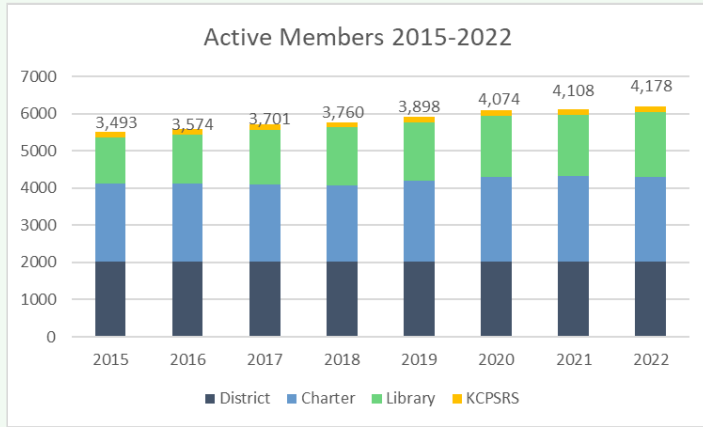
	Year Ended December 31, 2021	Year Ended December 31, 2020
<b>Additions</b>		
Contributions*	\$ 46,858,578	\$ 45,303,195
Net investment income	\$ 99,639,235	\$ 73,263,968
<b>Total additions</b>	<b>\$ 146,497,813</b>	<b>\$ 118,567,163</b>
<b>Deductions</b>		
Benefits payments	\$ 80,337,163	\$ 80,473,732
Member refunds	\$ 5,250,026	\$ 4,316,797
Administrative expenses	\$ 1,645,412	\$ 1,614,904
Other expenses	\$ 5,562	\$ 9,830
<b>Total deductions</b>	<b>\$ 87,238,163</b>	<b>\$ 86,415,263</b>
Net increase (decrease)	\$ 59,259,650	\$ 32,151,900
Beginning of year	\$ 694,237,740	\$ 662,085,840
Net positions restricted for pensions-end of year	<b>\$ 753,497,390</b>	<b>\$ 694,237,740</b>

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

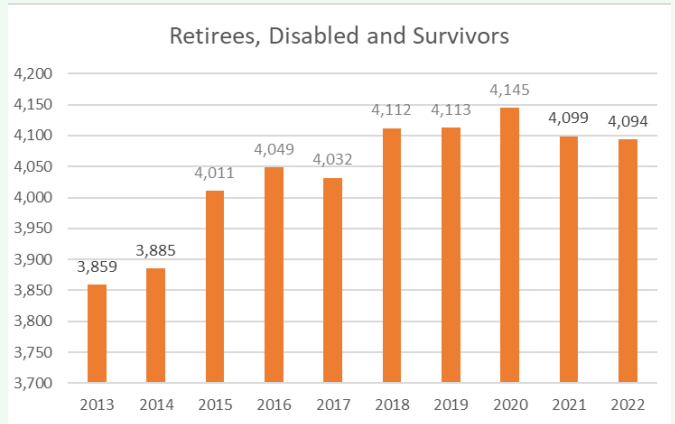
# HISTORICAL MEMBER AND RETIREE DATA

As of January 1, 2022

## Change in Active Members

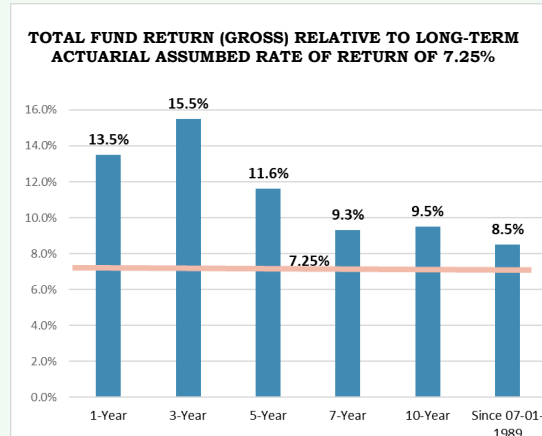


## Change in Retired Members



# INVESTMENT RETURN DATA

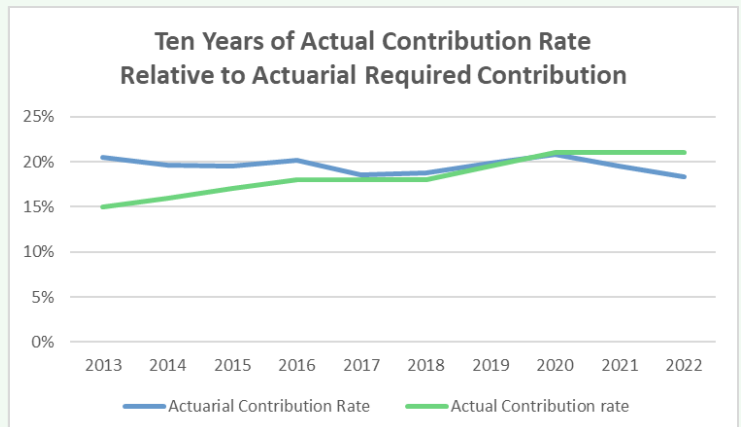
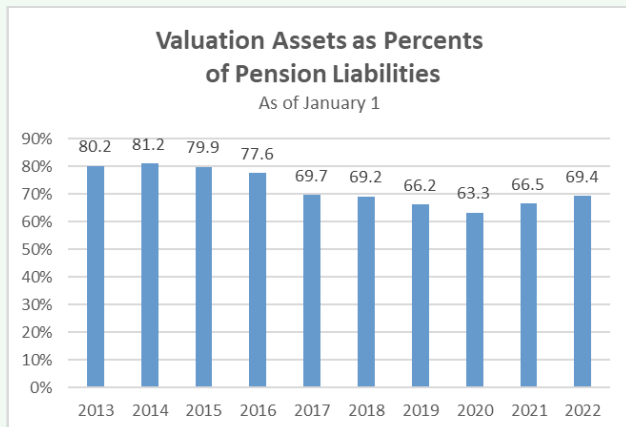
As of December 31, 2021



\*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, 2022



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

**KCPSRS has**



**4,178**

**Active  
Members**



*Ma'Homes Town*  
by Charlie Hustle

**\$81  
million**

**Benefit  
Payments  
made in 2021**

**4,094**

**Retirees &  
Benefit  
Recipients**

**\$20,000**

**Average Annual  
Benefit of  
Retirees and  
Benefit  
Recipients**

**7.2**

**Average Years  
of Service for  
Active Members**

**73.5**

**Average Age  
of Benefit  
Recipients**

**43**

**Average Age  
of Active  
Members**

**138**

**Number of  
Service  
Retirements in  
2021**



*Heart Deco*  
by Kathleen Murray



*Bridging KC*  
by Denise DiPiazza

**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.**

## KCPSRS BIDS FAREWELL TO A COLLEAGUE

**Dr. Mark Bedell, former Superintendent of the Kansas City Public School System, leaves after serving six years on the Board of Trustees**

Dr. Bedell joined KCPSRS in September 2016. He actively attended meetings on a regular basis over his tenure as a Trustee. Dr. Bedell fervently supported Board initiatives to safeguard the security of member assets entrusted with the Trustees to fulfill their expectation of a secure retirement.

To a wonderful colleague, farewell, and good luck!



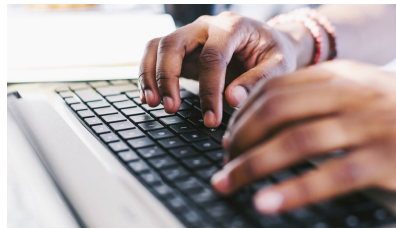
## MEMBER STATEMENTS AVAILABLE

Log into your [My Account](#) on the website [www.kcpsrs.org](http://www.kcpsrs.org). Haven't registered for *My Account* yet? It's easy! Watch the short instructional [video](#) available on our website under the *Publications* tab.

Your member statement contains your contributions plus interest account balance, your service credit, (number of years with the Retirement System), your beneficiary information, and your retirement plan (plan B or C). Your statement is available for viewing and printing via *My Account* anytime day or night, when you are ready!

If you are brand new to the Retirement System, it will take two to three months after your first pay period for your account information to be established and uploaded to the system.

Please review your statement. If you find incorrect information or have questions, contact KCPSRS immediately at [kcpsrs@kcpsrs.org](mailto:kcpsrs@kcpsrs.org) or 816-472-5800.



### KEEPING YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION SAFE

We are always trying to look for ways to better serve you, our members, at the same time we are always very conscious of your data security. KCPSRS uses a multi-layered approach to information and data security on our computer systems and website as well as when you contact us by phone or in person. If it seems like we ask for a lot of information from you before we answer your specific question or agree to change your personal information .....please keep in mind that our goal is to protect you!

## ASK US WHEN YOU NEED INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR KCPSRS RETIREMENT

Looking for KCPSRS specific retirement information or locked out of your online member self-service portal account and need assistance? Contact the Retirement Office at (816) 472-5800 or email us at [kcpsrs@kcpsrs.org](mailto:kcpsrs@kcpsrs.org) so we may assist you with questions regarding KCPSRS. Our business hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, excluding holidays. If you call us before or after our business hours, please feel free to leave a message with your name, phone number and/or email address. We will be sure to get back to you in a timely manner.

Note that some KCPSRS members also have investments outside KCPSRS in a separate retirement plan(s), e.g., defined contribution plan such as a 403 (b) or 457 Plan. If that sounds like your situation, then we encourage you to work with a financial planner to help you make informed decisions.

## 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?"



*Mending Hearts* by the Center Academy for

Success & Jay Colhour





3100 Broadway, Suite 1211  
 Kansas City, MO 64111  
 Phone: 816-472-5800  
 Fax: 816-472-5909  
 Email: [kcpsrs@kcpsrs.org](mailto:kcpsrs@kcpsrs.org)  
[www.kcpsrs.org](http://www.kcpsrs.org)

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[youtube.com/channel/  
UCiqODsv\\_8w0HalpY\\_cAsVuA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiqODsv_8w0HalpY_cAsVuA)

**KCPSRS Membership Advantages:**

- Your retirement contributions are automatically deducted and invested for you.
- If you were to pass away prior to retirement, your designated beneficiary would receive your account balance or in specific situations a monthly benefit.
- Upon meeting eligibility criteria, you are eligible for a monthly benefit payment for the rest of your life.
- You can withdraw your contributions plus annual interest if you leave employment.

KCPSRS is working hard to create retirement educational tools to help you prepare for your pre-retirement decision making. Visit our webpage, [www.kcpsrs.org](http://www.kcpsrs.org), for more information.

# PARADE OF HEARTS™

*KC Hearts the Plaza by*  
 Charlie Podrebarac



*What do you do if you don't have lemons by*  
 Ivey Zoellers

## 2022-2023 KCPSRS CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

- 5 KCPSRS Office closed—Labor Day
- 12 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

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

### NOVEMBER

- 7 Board of Trustees meeting
- 15 Deadline to submit direct deposit & tax changes for November retirement benefits
- 24-25 KCPSRS Office closed—Thanksgiving
- 29 Retirement benefit checks mailed
- 30 Retirement benefit direct deposits deposited

### DECEMBER

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

### JANUARY

- 2 KCPSRS Office closed—New Years Day Observed
- 9 Board of Trustees meeting
- 16 KCPSRS Office closed—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 17 Deadline to submit direct deposit & tax changes for January retirement benefits
- 30 Retirement benefit checks mailed
- 31 Retirement benefit direct deposits deposited

### FEBRUARY

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