

Sec. 3307.01. As used in this chapter:

(A) "Employer" means the board of education, school district, college, university, institution, or other agency within the state by which a teacher is employed and paid.

(B) "Teacher" means any person paid from public funds and employed in the public schools of the state under any type of contract described in section 3319.08 of the Revised Code in a position for which the teacher is required to have a license issued pursuant to sections 3319.22 to 3319.31 of the Revised Code; and any other teacher or faculty member employed in any school, college, university, institution, or other agency wholly controlled and managed, and supported in whole or in part, by the state or any political subdivision thereof, including Central state university, Cleveland state university, the university of Toledo, and the medical college of Ohio at Toledo. The educational employees of the department of education, as determined by the state superintendent of public instruction, shall be considered teachers for the purpose of membership in this system. In all cases of doubt, the state teachers retirement board shall determine whether any person is a teacher, and its decision shall be final.

(C) "Prior service" means all service as a teacher before September 1, 1920, military service credit, all service prior to September 1, 1920, as an employee of any employer who comes within the public employees retirement system, the school employees retirement system, or any other state retirement system established under the laws of Ohio, and similar service in another state, credit for which was procured by a member under section 3307.33 of the Revised Code, prior to June 25, 1945. Prior service credit shall not be granted to any member for service for which credit or benefits have been received in any other state retirement system in Ohio or for credit that was forfeited by withdrawal of contributions, unless ~~such~~ THE credit has been restored. If the teacher served as an employee in any two or all of the capacities, "prior service" means the total combined service in the capacities prior to September 1, 1920.

If a teacher who has been granted prior service credit for service rendered prior to September 1, 1920, as an employee of an employer who comes within the public employees retirement system or the school employees retirement system, establishes, subsequent to September 16, 1957, and before retirement, three years of contributing service in the public employees retirement system, or one year in the school employees retirement system, ~~then~~ the prior service credit granted shall become, at retirement, the liability of ~~such~~ THE other system; if the prior service or employment was in a capacity covered by that system.

(D) "Total service," "total service credit," except as provided in section 3307.41 of the Revised Code, or "Ohio service credit" means all service of a member of the state teachers retirement system since last becoming a member and, in addition thereto, restored service credit under section 3307.28, all prior service credit, all military service credit computed as provided in this chapter, and all other service credit established under sections 3307.31, 3307.311, 3307.32, 3307.35, 3307.411, 3307.51, 3307.512, 3307.513, and 3307.73 and former section 3307.52 of the Revised Code, and Section 3 of Amended Substitute Senate Bill No. 530 of the 114th general assembly. All service credit purchased under section 3307.33 of the Revised Code shall be used exclusively for the purpose of qualifying for service retirement.

(E) "Member" means any person included in the membership of the state teachers retirement system, which shall consist of all teachers and contributors as defined in divisions (B) and (F) of this section and all disability benefit recipients. However, for purposes of this chapter, the following persons shall not be considered members:

(1) A student, intern, or resident who is not a member at the time of any part-time employment by a school, college, or university in which the student, intern, or resident is regularly attending classes;

(2) A person denied membership pursuant to section 3307.27 of the Revised Code;

(3) A superannuate or other system retiree as defined in section 3307.381 of the Revised Code;

(4) An individual employed in a program established pursuant to the "Job Training Partnership Act," 96 Stat. 1322 (1982), 29 U.S.C.A. 1501.

(F) "Contributor" means any person who has an account in the teachers' savings fund.

(G) "Beneficiary" means any person eligible to receive, or in receipt of, a retirement allowance or other benefit provided by this chapter.

(H)(1) "Service retirement" means retirement as provided in section 3307.38 or 3307.39 of the Revised Code.

(2) "Disability retirement" means retirement as provided in section 3307.43 of the Revised Code.

(I) "Accumulated contributions" means the sum of all amounts credited to a contributor's individual account in the teachers' savings fund, together with interest credited thereon at the rates approved by the state teachers retirement board prior to retirement.

(J) "Annuity" means payments for life derived from contributions made by a contributor and paid from the annuity and pension reserve fund. All annuities shall be paid in twelve equal monthly installments.

(K) "Pensions" means annual payments for life derived from appropriations made by an employer and paid from the annuity and pension reserve fund. All pensions shall be paid in twelve equal monthly installments.

(L)(1) "Allowance" or "benefit" means the pension plus the annuity, or any other payment under this chapter, and includes a disability allowance or disability benefit.

(2) "Disability allowance" means an allowance paid on account of disability under section 3307.431 of the Revised Code.

(3) "Disability benefit" means a benefit paid as disability retirement under section 3307.43 of the Revised Code, as a disability allowance under section 3307.431 of the Revised Code, or as a disability benefit under section 3307.41 of the Revised Code.

(M) "Annuity reserve" means the present value, computed upon the basis of mortality tables adopted by the state teachers retirement board with interest, of all payments to be made on account of any annuity, or benefit in lieu of any annuity, granted to a member.

(N) "Pension reserve" means the present value, computed upon the basis of mortality tables adopted by the state teachers retirement board with interest, of all payments to be made on account of any pension, or benefit in lieu of any pension, granted to a member or to a beneficiary.

(O) "Year" means the year beginning the first day of July and ending with the thirtieth day of June next following, except that for the purpose of determining final average salary, "year" may mean the contract year.

(P) "Local district pension system" means any school teachers pension fund created in any school district of the state in accordance with the laws of the state prior to September 1, 1920.

(Q) "Employer contribution" means the amount paid by an employer, as determined by the employer rate, including the normal and deficiency rates, contributions, and funds wherever used in this chapter.

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(R) "Five years of service credit," for the exclusive purpose of satisfying the service credit requirements and determining eligibility for benefits under section 3307.38 of the Revised Code, means employment covered under this chapter and employment covered under a former retirement plan operated, recognized, or endorsed by a college, institute, university, or political subdivision of this state prior to coverage under this chapter.

(S) "Actuary" means the actuarial consultant to the state teachers retirement board, who shall be either of the following:

(1) A member of the American academy of actuaries;

(2) A firm, partnership, or corporation of which at least one person is a member of the American academy of actuaries.

(T) "Fiduciary" means a person who does any of the following:

(1) Exercises any discretionary authority or control with respect to the management of the system, or with respect to the management or disposition of its assets;

(2) Renders investment advice for a fee, direct or indirect, with respect to money or property of the system;

(3) Has any discretionary authority or responsibility in the administration of the system.

(U)(1) Except as otherwise provided in this division, "compensation" means all salary, wages, and other earnings paid to a teacher by reason of the teacher's employment, including compensation paid pursuant to a supplemental contract. ~~Such~~ THE salary, wages, and other earnings shall be determined prior to determination of the amount required to be contributed to the teachers' savings fund under section 3307.51 of the Revised Code and without regard to whether any of ~~such~~ THE salary, wages, or other earnings are treated as deferred income for federal income tax purposes.

(2) Compensation does not include any of the following:

(a) Payments for accrued but unused sick leave or personal leave, including payments made under a plan established pursuant to section 124.39 of the Revised Code or any other plan established by the employer;

(b) Payments made for accrued but unused vacation leave, including payments made pursuant to section 124.13 of the Revised Code or a plan established by the employer;

(c) Payments made for vacation pay covering concurrent periods for which other salary, compensation, or benefits under this chapter are paid;

(d) Amounts paid by the employer to provide life insurance, sickness, accident, endowment, health, medical, hospital, dental, or surgical coverage, or other insurance for the teacher or the teacher's family, or amounts paid by the employer to the teacher in lieu of providing ~~such~~ THE insurance;

(e) Incidental benefits, including lodging, food, laundry, parking, or services furnished by the employer, use of the employer's property or equipment, and reimbursement for job-related expenses authorized by the employer, including moving and travel expenses and expenses related to professional development;

(f) Payments made by the employer in exchange for a member's waiver of a right to receive any payment, amount, or benefit described in division (U)(2) of this section;

(g) Payments by the employer for services not actually rendered;

(h) Any amount paid by the employer as a retroactive increase in salary, wages, or other earnings, unless the increase is one of the following:

(i) A retroactive increase paid to a member employed by a school district board of education in a position that requires a license designated for teaching and not designated for being an administrator issued under section 3319.22 of the Revised Code that is paid in accordance with uniform criteria applicable to all members employed by the board in positions requiring ~~such~~ THE licenses;

(ii) A retroactive increase paid to a member employed by a school district board of education in a position that requires a license designated for being an administrator issued under section 3319.22 of the Revised Code that is paid in accordance with uniform criteria applicable to all members employed by the board in positions requiring ~~such~~ THE licenses;

(iii) A retroactive increase paid to a member employed by a school district board of education as a superintendent that is also paid as described in division (U)(2)(h)(i) of this section;

(iv) A retroactive increase paid to a member employed by an employer other than a school district board of education in accordance with uniform criteria applicable to all members employed by the employer.

(i) Payments made to or on behalf of a teacher that are in excess of the annual compensation that may be taken into account by the retirement system under division (a)(17) of section 401 of the "Internal Revenue Code of 1986," 100 Stat. 2085, 26 U.S.C.A. 401(a)(17), as amended. FOR A TEACHER WHO FIRST ESTABLISHES MEMBERSHIP BEFORE JULY 1, 1996, THE ANNUAL COMPENSATION THAT MAY BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY THE RETIREMENT SYSTEM SHALL BE DETERMINED UNDER DIVISION (d)(3) OF SECTION 13212 OF THE "OMNIBUS BUDGET RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1993," PUB. L. 103-66, 107 STAT. 472.

(j) Payments made under division (B) or (D) of section 5923.05 of the Revised Code or Section 4 of Substitute Senate Bill No. 3 of the 119th General Assembly;

(k) Anything of value received by the teacher that is based on or attributable to retirement or an agreement to retire.

(3) The retirement board shall determine by rule both of the following:

(a) Whether particular forms of earnings are included in any of the categories enumerated in this division;

(b) Whether any form of earnings not enumerated in this division is to be included in compensation.

Decisions of the board made under this division shall be final.

(V) "Retirant" means any former member who is granted age and service retirement as provided in sections 3307.38, 3307.39, 3307.41, and 3307.50 of the Revised Code.

(W) "Disability benefit recipient" means a member who is receiving a disability benefit.

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