

EMPLOYER Notice

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System • 277 East Town Street • Columbus, Ohio 43215

Important:

The OPERS Annual Statement has personalized information on projected benefit amount, service credit information, and contributions on deposit.

OPERS Annual Statement begins mailing March 3

Who should read this notice

Human resources professionals

Situation overview

Starting March 3, 2008, all OPERS members—your employees—will begin receiving their OPERS *Annual Statements* on a rolling schedule. More than 330,000 personalized statements will be sent.

Re-employed retirees, members of the law enforcement division and those employees enrolled in the Combined Pension Plan will receive their annual statements the week of March 3, 2008. After that, approximately 80,000 personalized statements will be sent each week until the mailing is completed. The statements will be mailed according to zip code so it's possible some employees will receive information more than four weeks after others.

What you need to do

Please encourage your employees to carefully review their *Annual Statement* for accuracy. In addition, employers are encouraged to handle questions as follows:

- *Regarding distribution:* We ask that all employers are aware of the mailing schedule for the OPERS *Annual Statement* so you can answer questions your employees might have.
- *Regarding the Annual Statement information:* The most common question OPERS receives after the *Annual Statements* are mailed is, "Why does the amount of earnings for 2007 shown on my statement differ from my W-2?"

Usually, the answer is due to timing. Employers are required to report earnings based on when salary is *earned*, not when *paid*. Usually the discrepancy between the *Annual Statement* and the W-2 is because the last payroll of 2007 was included in the OPERS *Annual Statement*, but not on their W-2. This will be true if your last pay period in 2007 had an ending date in 2007, but your employees' paychecks were dated for January 2008.

Another common explanation is due to the type of earnings reported to OPERS. Remember, not all types of compensation are considered earnable salary or pensionable earnings. Certain bonus payouts made during the year can cause a difference between the W-2 earnings and the OPERS *Annual Statement* earnings.

- If employees have additional questions, please direct them to contact the Member Services Center at 1-800-222-7377.

(More information on back)



1-888-400-0965

www.opers.org

Why this is important

The OPERS Annual Statement has important information for individuals that will help them plan for the future. We know that employees look to their employer for guidance and, in some cases, interpretation of important documents. Your understanding of the distribution schedule and encouraging each employee to review their statement for accuracy will ultimately help your employees.

Who to contact for more information

After you review this *Employer Notice*, contact your Employer Outreach representative with questions or comments at 1-888-400-0965 or via the Internet at employeroutreach@opers.org.

This Employer Notice is written in plain language for use by public employers who are subject to coverage under the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. It is not intended as a substitute for the federal or state law, namely the Ohio Revised Code, the Ohio Administrative Code, or the Internal Revenue Code, nor will its interpretation prevail should a conflict arise between it and the Ohio Revised Code, Ohio Administrative Code, or Internal Revenue Code. Rules governing the retirement system are subject to change periodically either by statute of the Ohio General Assembly, regulation of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement Board, or regulation of the Internal Revenue Code. If you have questions about this material, please contact our office or seek legal advice from your attorney.



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