

Are you aware of your Retirement+ status?

First--what is Retirement+?

Retirement+ (or R+) was first rolled out in 2001 by the Mass. Teachers Retirement System (MTRS). The R+ program increases retirement benefits for eligible and participating members who have completed 30 years of service.

Key Points:

→You must have 30 or more years of credible service, at least 20 years of which are membership service with the MTRS or the Boston Retirement System as a teacher; there is no minimum age requirement.

→The contribution rate for R+ participants is a flat 11%. **NOT 9% and an additional 2%.**

What does this mean for you?

→If you were hired prior to 2001, you need to know your status and find out if you are in Retirement+ or not. There are a couple of ways to do this but the most important is to log into your MTRS account and see what it says there for your status.

→You can help your colleagues! A number of employees in our district are not part of Retirement+, seemingly through no fault of their own. They could use your help. If you are a Massachusetts resident, they need you to reach out to your legislators to encourage them to support the current legislative proposals:

There are three bills currently under consideration by the Joint Committee on Public Service that would allow teachers hired before July 1, 2001 to have a fair and clear pathway to have a second opportunity to join R+.

- **H.2483/S.1702--An Act relative to teacher retirement election**
- **H.2630--An Act relative to benefits for teachers**

Union leaders testified in support of these bills at their legislative hearing in June 2023. The public service committee has until February 7th to report the bills out with a favorable or unfavorable report or with a study or extension order which gives them more time. The bills may be combined or attached to related legislation. If the public service committee reports the bills out favorably, they will be referred to the Ways and Means Committee for further review. Ways and means conducts costs analyses of the bills, but this committee is not required to act on any bills on their desk. If a bill is reported favorably out of Ways and Means it will be sent to the floor for a vote and then the process is repeated for the other branch. Differences between the two bills need to be resolved before they can be enacted and sent to the governor.

Click to [**Urge your legislators to support Retirement+ enrollment**](#)

Or visit:

<https://actionnetwork.org/letters/urge-your-legislators-to-support-retirementplus-enrollment>
(A link sponsored by the MTA to connect with your legislators.)

It literally takes only seconds to fill in the information and send an email to your legislators!

Please consider taking the time to contact them on behalf of your colleagues...they thank you for this support!

Looking for more information? Have questions?

Contact Wendy McClure (mcclurew@monsonschools.com)