

**From:** [westerlundj@comcast.net](mailto:westerlundj@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Office State Actuary, WA](#)  
**Subject:** TRS 1 COLA  
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I retired in 2005 after teaching 3 extra years beyond the requirement to retire. I kept teaching in hopes we would someday get a decent raise. But after 3 extra years of teaching, I realized it would not happen.

So, I substitute taught to supplement my retirement. And 18 years later I am still subbing.

In that time my retirement has had 2 little raises. However, according to the inflation calculator, I should have received COLAs worth \$21,829 to have the same buying power as in 2005. I have probably gotten \$3000 in COLAs over that time.

I am 73 years old and still subbing secondary PE to try to keep up with inflation and the loss of buying power.

HELP. I would really like to enjoy retirement without having to continue to work.

We are the teachers who struggled thru levy failures and "reduction in force" - RIFFING- which resulted in financial struggles during our teaching years.

Please seriously consider an annual COLA for Teacher Retirement Plan 1. We worked hard and were very dedicated to our jobs. Please acknowledge our contributions to education and treat us as equals to the other retirement plans.

Thank you so much.

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