

From: [Jim Davison](#)
To: [Office State Actuary, WA](#)
Subject: Thank you, but equity with other plans has yet to be attained
Date: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 9:50:30 PM

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Dear Chair Conway and SCPP members:

Thanks to your recommendation, Plans 1 retirees will receive another capped COLA this summer. In addition, the unfunded liability—the result of a decade of legislative underfunding—may still be eliminated by the 2024 goal. But since TRS 1 and PERS 1 still do not have an annual COLA-- which all other DRS plans do--we must, again, request the assistance of the Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCPP) since your recommendations have proven to be the only path to receive the necessary legislative action to approve a COLA.

It is good to see school employees are now being paid something more in line with the required education/training. My 2005 ending salary—actually my salary for the last three years of my 36-year teaching career—was within \$1 of \$53,673. According to a recent story (<https://610kona.com/gov-jay-inslee-approves-salary-increases-for-teachers/>) that's slightly more than the minimum \$52,173 that classified staff will be earning and substantially less than the \$72,728 minimum for certificated staff after the recent 3.7% increase granted by the legislature to active education staff.

As a TRS 1 retiree, my increase was limited to the capped 3% recommended by the SCPP. The salary comparison in the above paragraph should be considered during contemplation of future Plans 1 COLAs. Salaries of retirees were much lower than currently being earned, and those lower earnings were the basis for their pensions. And while all other plans have increased annually, TRS 1 and PERS 1 pensions have only increased due to SCPP recommendations.

Thank you for your past support of retirees. It is hoped that will continue for the 2024 legislative session.

Sincerely,

Jim Davison
PO Box 425
Waitsburg, WA 99361-0425

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