

Select Committee on Pension Policy

Goals for Washington State Public Pensions

Revised and Adopted September 27, 2005

1. Contribution Rate Setting: To establish and maintain adequate, predictable and stable contribution rates, with equal cost-sharing by employers and employees in the Plans 2, so as to assure the long-term financial soundness of the retirement systems.
2. Balanced Long-Term Management: To manage the state retirement systems in such a way as to create stability, competitiveness, and adaptability in Washington's public pension plans, with responsiveness to human resource policies for recruiting and retaining a quality public workforce.
3. Retirement Eligibility: To establish a normal retirement age for members currently in the Plans 2/3 of PERS, SERS, and TRS that balances employer and employee needs, affordability, flexibility, and the value of the retirement benefit over time.
4. Purchasing Power: To increase and maintain the purchasing power of retiree benefits in the Plans 1 of PERS and TRS, to the extent feasible, while providing long-term benefit security to retirees.
5. Consistency with the Statutory Goals within the Actuarial Funding Chapter: To be consistent with the goals outlined in the RCW 41.45.010:
 - a. to provide a dependable and systematic process for funding the benefits to members and retirees of the Washington State Retirement Systems;
 - b. to continue to fully fund the retirement system plans 2 and 3, and the Washington State Patrol Retirement System, as provided by law;
 - c. to fully amortize the total costs of PERS 1, TRS 1 and LEOFF 1, not later than June 30, 2024;
 - d. to establish predictable long-term employer contribution rates which will remain a relatively predictable portion of future state budgets; and
 - e. to fund, to the extent feasible, benefit increases over the working lives of those members so that the cost of those benefits are paid by the taxpayers who receive the benefit of those members' service.