



[Print this newsletter](#)

Quicklinks

- [Employer Website](#)
- [Webinars/Seminars](#)
- [Employer Self-Service Website](#)
- [Member Website](#)

In This Issue...

- [Public Acts 110 and 111 of 2007](#)
- [Retirement Reporting Hours Permanently Expanded—5:00 AM to 11:00 PM](#)
- [2009 Employer Contribution Rates](#)
- [Error Download Detail Report – New Tool for Editing Reports](#)
- [Revised Remittance Advice Form](#)
- [ORS Launches Secure Online Account Access for Retirees](#)
- [Information Tools for Your Employees](#)
- [Leaving School Employment and Not Retiring](#)
- [RIM Updates](#)
- [Employer Survey Results](#)

Public Acts 110 and 111 of 2007

Public Acts 110 and 111, which were signed into law in October, 2007, changed the way people will become eligible for a full and immediate insurance subsidy, instituted a graded premium for retirement insurance for employees hired after July, 2008, closed the "17 Day" rule, increased the contribution rate on employees hired after July, 2008 and will require employees to earn at least two years of service before they can be eligible to buy service credit.

We've prepared an online presentation that summarizes the changes to the retirement law. [View the presentation now.](#)



Retirement Reporting Hours Permanently Expanded—5:00 AM to 11:00 PM

Based on your feedback, the reporting website hours have been permanently expanded. The new hours are from 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., seven days a week.

The validations, edits, and posting batches will continue to run every weeknight (Monday through Friday) on any reports that you have loaded, accepted or records edited and saved by 11:00 PM.

NOTE: Any loaded reports or work that you do over the

weekend (Saturday from 5:00 AM to Sunday 11:00 PM) will not be run through the batch process for validations, edits, and posting until Monday evening. In other words, you will not see the results of the weekend work until Tuesday morning.

Although the website will be available on the expanded schedule, ORS technical support or web coordinator support for questions or system issues is only available during normal business hours. These normal business hours are Monday through Friday, 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

As always, ORS welcomes your comments and suggestions. Please call the Employer Reporting Call Center at 517-636-0166 or email us at ORS_Web_Reporting@michigan.gov.



2009 Employer Contribution Rates

The contribution rate due on member's wages paid between October 1, 2008, and September 30, 2009, will be 16.54 percent, a .18 percent decrease from the fiscal 2008 rate year of 16.72 percent. This rate includes the reconciliation and applies to K-12 school districts, intermediate school districts, community colleges, district libraries, public school academies, and federal programs. The breakdown of the rate is as follows:

FY 2009

Pension Normal Cost:	5.17%
Pension Unfunded Accrued Liability:	4.56%
Pension Total:	9.73%
Health Benefits (Cash Basis):	6.81%
Total:	16.54%

If you have any questions, please contact Financial Services, Retirement Accounting at (517) 241-5042.



Error Download Detail Report – New Tool for Editing Reports

In early January, 2008, we introduced a new and better way to view, sort and manage your retirement reporting suspended and flagged payroll records. The Error Download Detail link found on your Edit Report screen will take you to a spreadsheet version of the Edit Report that simplifies viewing and sorting of records in a suspended or flagged status. Previously, you could only see the errors in SSN order, would need to read through several error messages for each SSN, and then open each and every record to determine the problems and solutions. With this new tool, you can sort and group errors in any of several ways to make your job easier. After sorting them out your way, you should be able to resolve the issues easier and faster. The Web coordinators here at ORS use a similar version of this spreadsheet on a daily

basis and find it a very valuable tool in assisting reporting units in getting records and reports posted.

Here are the steps for working with this new tool:

- Go into your web site and select Work on Reports from the menu.
- Locate the payroll that has suspended and flagged records that need your attention.
- Under the column named Edit Report is a link called View Report. (You've probably clicked on this link many times in the past to find suspends and flags.)
- Near the top of this page is a new link in big, bold, blue letters called Error Download Detail.
- Click on this link to bring up a spreadsheet version of the Edit Report.
- You will see columns for SSN, Name, DTL type, Error Type, Message Type and Error Message.
 - DTL type gives you the type of record involved: DTL1 (demographics), DTL2 (wages and service), DTL3 (TDP payments).
 - Error type tells you whether this error is an ORG fix (an error the organization/reporting unit must correct), ON HOLD (there's nothing the org can do at present), or IN QUEUE (the record is waiting for a previous pay date record to post, no action required by the org at this time).
 - Message type is the status of the error-suspended or flagged. A suspended error must be corrected before a record will post. A flagged error must be looked at to make sure the data on the record is complete and correct.
 - Error Message is just that-an explanation of why the record is suspended or flagged or both.

You can use the spreadsheet in its web site environment and sort the errors as you choose. However, we suggest that you copy this report into an Excel spreadsheet, as it is easier to sort and allows you to save the spreadsheet. You can sort by any of the columns or combination of columns, as Excel allows. (If you need help with Excel spreadsheet functions you should contact your in-house technicians for assistance.) You may want to look at all of the flag errors first and the suspend errors later. Perhaps you want to find all of the suspended retroactive wage records so you can look up dates and class codes all at once and make the corrections later. Or maybe there was a programming problem and there are many employees who didn't get pay rates and you'd rather fix them all at once. The choice is yours! We hope you find this new tool as useful as we do.

If you have any questions, contact the Employer

Reporting Call Center at (517) 636-0166 or
ORS_Web_Reporting@michigan.gov.



Revised Remittance Advice Form

Based on feedback from you, the [Remittance Advice Form for Contributions and TDP Payments \(R0669C\)](#) has been revised to make its completion easier and more convenient. You can now submit information for up to three pay periods on each form. Lines were also added to allow for positive and negative adjustments. The new form is available on the school employer information website at www.michigan.gov/psru under the "Forms and Publications" link.

If you have any questions on completing or submitting this form, please contact Pat Jorae at (517) 241-5043.



ORS Launches Secure Online Account Access for Retirees

Customers asked for it, and we delivered it! ORS is pleased to announce the launch of *miAccount*, a secure section of our website where retirees can view, print, and change their personal account information.



Here's a list of what retirees can do through *miAccount*:

- Update their mailing address, phone number, and email address.
- Manage their direct deposits.
- Change their federal tax withholding.
- Print their 1099R.
- Print an income verification letter for mortgage or healthcare purposes.
- View and print their pension payment details.
- Calculate earnings limit if they are thinking about returning to public school employment.

Additionally, once retirees are logged into *miAccount* they can take advantage of our new secure message board to discuss personal account information with confidence that communication is transmitted securely.

miAccount is available every day from 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. eastern time and can be accessed online at www.michigan.gov/ORSschools.

miAccount will be available for active members soon—stay tuned for more details!



Information Tools for Your Employees

ORS provides several tools for your employees to get retirement related information.

- **Publications**—Several informational booklets are available ranging from new hires and mid-career employees, to those who are ready to retire.
- **Webinars and Seminars**—Live, online, and recorded presentations on various topics from earning and purchasing service credit, Preretirement Information Meetings, and How to Complete the Retirement Application tutorial.
- **Detroit Office Reopens**—ORS reopened its office in Detroit, Michigan on January 7, 2008. Walk-in customers are welcome Monday through Thursday from 9:30 to 11:30AM - at the Cadillac Place, 3068 West Grand Boulevard, Suite 4-700. Please phone (313) 456-4010 before visiting.
- **Ready, Set, Retire!**—In addition to walk-in customer hours, staff in the Detroit office now offer the, *Ready, Set, Retire!* sessions for public school employees retiring within the next 12 months. This optional counseling session will provide you with a retirement estimate and help you complete the retirement application forms. *Ready, Set Retire!* group sessions are available Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. and Fridays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. for a maximum of 10 participants per session (spouses welcome). [Registration is required.](#)



Leaving School Employment and Not Retiring

It's important that your employees know how termination effects their retirement when they leave for reasons other than retiring. We strongly encourage you to provide them with the [Leaving Public School Employment? brochure](#) while they're still considered a member of the retirement system. This publication will provide them with important information about their status in the retirement system.

Additionally, several disciplines within some school districts, i.e., substitute teachers and bus drivers, have been privatized. As you are aware, whenever a person works for a third party organization he or she is no longer a public school employee and therefore is no longer an active member of the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System. They are not always informed that this change in their member status has a direct effect on retirement eligibility.

For more information on who is not a member of the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System, see Chapter 4, Section 4.5 *Who is Not a Member* in the *Reporting Instruction Manual* at www.michigan.gov/psru.



RIM Updates

The following updates were made to the *Reporting Instruction Manual (RIM)* since the last issue of

Retirement Times. Go to the [RIM Changes page](#) for details.

Chapter and Section	Title
3.6	Viewing Your Report
4.2	Detail 1 Record (DTL1) - Demographics
4.2.1	Adding a new employee
4.2.2	Changing or adding demographic data for an existing employee
4.2.3	This section has been deleted (Status Codes)
4.4	Special Membership Situations
4.4.1	Sabbatical leave
4.4.2	Temporary layoff
4.6.4	Determining Benefit Plan Codes
5.2.1	Reportable Compensation Limits
5.2.2	Using wage codes
5.2.3	Regular wages - wage code 01
5.2.4	Other wages - multiple wage codes
5.10	Summary Table of Reportable and Nonreportable Compensation
5.11	Summary Table of Reportable Wages Codes and Hours
Appendix B.2	Deleted (Status Codes)
Appendix D.1.3	Detail 1 - Member Demographics
Appendix E.2.2	Basic Edits Run for DTL1 Records
Appendix E.2.3	Validations Run for DTL1 Records
Appendix E.2.4	Basic Edits Run for DTL2 Records
Appendix E.2.5	Validations Run for DTL2 Records
Appendix E.2.7	Basic Edits Run for DTL3 (TDP) Records
Appendix E.2.8	Validations Run for DTL3 (TDP) Records



Employer Survey Results

The 2007 School Employer Survey results showed an increase of 3.9% in overall satisfaction to 94.6%. Thanks for providing your feedback and for your help.



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Thanks for reading!

