

KANSAS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREMENT SYSTEM



Winter Newsletter 2025

PENSION NEWS

Active Edition

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KCPSRS CALENDAR

JANUARY

01 KCPSRS Office closed—New Year’s Day
 06 Board of Trustees meeting
 10 Deadline to submit Request for Refund paperwork for the month of January
 15 Request for Refund Issued
 20 KCPSRS Office closed—MLK, Jr. Day
 31 Deadline to apply for March 1 retirement

FEBRUARY

03 Board of Trustees meeting
 10 Deadline to submit Request for Refund paperwork for the month of February
 17 KCPSRS Office closed—President’s Day
 18 Request for Refund Issued
 19 Virtual Pre-Retirement Webinar @ 4:00 p.m.
 26 In person Pre-Retirement Seminar @ 4:00 p.m.
 28 Deadline to apply for April 1 retirement

MARCH

03 Board of Trustees meeting
 05 Virtual Pre-Retirement Webinar @ 4:00p.m.
 10 Deadline to submit Request for Refund paperwork for the month of March
 17 Request for Refund Issued
 30 Deadline to apply for May 1 retirement

APRIL

07 Board of Trustees meeting
 10 Deadline to submit Request for Refund paperwork for the month of April
 15 Request for Refund Issued
 18 KCPSRS Office Closed—Good Friday
 30 Deadline to apply for June 1 retirement

MAY

05 Board of Trustees meeting
 09 Deadline to submit Request for Refund paperwork for the month of May
 15 Request for Refund Issued
 26 KCPSRS Office Closed—Memorial Day
 30 Deadline to apply for July 1 retirement

JUNE

02 Board of Trustees meeting
 10 Deadline to submit Request for Refund paperwork for the month of June
 16 Request for Refund Issued
 19 KCPSRS Office Closed—Juneteenth
 30 Deadline to apply for August 1 retirement

Meet Your KCPSRS Staff

KCPSRS Staff is proud to be a part of this System and its many achievements over the years. We look forward to continuing to serve Kansas City and our members.



Back Row (left to right):

Tyler Walock, Accountant

Zoe Wilson, Business Communications Specialist

Dr. Jason Steliga,

Executive Director

Front Row (left to right):

Cierra Kelley, Benefit

Data Analyst

Shannon McClain,

Benefit Payroll

Coordinator

Cheryl Bennett, Benefit Specialist and Educator

Photo Credit: Jen Troesser, PSRS/PEERS

Join Us - Annual Pre-Retirement Seminars

If you are within one to three years of retirement eligibility*, register now to attend a Pre-Retirement Seminar. Seminars include information about KCPSRS benefits, Social Security, and the Corebridge personal saving plan offered to school district and some charter school employees.

Seminars will be held on the dates and times listed below. You must register to attend.

Register Online! *You must register by the specified deadline in order for KCPSRS to prepare and e-mail you a personalized retirement estimate and packet of information before the session.*

DATE	TIME	METHOD	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LINKS
FEBRUARY 19	4:00—7:00 p.m.	Virtual / Zoom	February 12, 2025	Google Form Link
FEBRUARY 26	4:00—7:00 p.m.	In Person	February 19, 2025	Google Form Link
MARCH 5	4:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Virtual / Zoom	February 26, 2025	Google Form Link

Enrollment confirmation and reminders will be sent to your email address used when registered online.

**Members with at least five years of service and employed prior to 1/1/14 are fully eligible at age 60 or 75 points. Members with at least five years of service and employed on or after 1/1/14 are fully eligible at age 62 or 80 points. Points are your age plus your years of service with a Kansas City Public School Retirement System employer.*

CURRENT KCPSRS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ELECTED MEMBERS

Active Members	Term Expires
Dr. Stacy King	December 2028
Dr. Lauren Amicone	December 2027
Andrew Murphy	December 2026
Jamekia Kendrix	December 2025

Retired Members	Term Expires
Debbie Siragusa	December 2028
Linda Watkins	December 2026

APPOINTED MEMBERS

School District	Term Expires
Brian Welch	December 2028
Dr. Eddie Smith	December 2027
Judy Morgan	December 2026
Cecelia Carter	December 2025

Library	Term Expires
Michael Murphy	December 2028

District Superintendent
Dr. Jennifer Collier

Summary of Board of Trustees Responsibilities

The Board is responsible for:

- Ensuring the Retirement System is appropriately governed and managed with the overriding goal of protecting Fund assets.
- Creating and maintaining an atmosphere that encourages frank and collegial discussions both at the Board and Committee level and between the Board and management.
- Establishing and communicating Board policies and priorities and monitoring performance considering its established policies and priorities.

Each Board Member must:

- Act as a fiduciary of the Retirement System. *A fiduciary is a person who holds the trust and confidence of another and is charged with acting in the best*

interest of this individual or group.

- Attend regular meetings of the Board of Trustees normally held from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. the first Monday of each month, except no regular Board meetings in July or August.
- Attend special meetings of the Board, which may be held occasionally as needed.
- Complete at least six hours of Board education each year. A new Board member must complete six hours of Board orientation education within ninety days of becoming a Board member. Educational opportunities are available on-line and in person.

According to Missouri law, all Board members must be resident taxpayers within the boundaries of the Kansas City School District.

Empowering Employers: A Recap of the 2024 KCPSRS Workshop

In October, KCPSRS hosted its 2024 Employer Workshop, bringing together our valued employers for an engaging session aimed at simplifying critical processes and ensuring smooth operations.

The workshop agenda featured presentations by the following individuals over the following topics:

- Cheryl Bennett: Retirement Eligibility and Member Services.
- Cierra Kelley: Data File Processing, Refunds, and Purchase of Service.
- Shannon McClain: Working After Retirement and Critical Shortage Provisions explained.

A central focus of the presentation was data reporting requirements. We highlighted the importance of timely and accurate submission of data files to avoid delays, shared a step-by-step guide for reporting adjustments, and reviewed the best practices to prevent common errors. Employers appreciated the hands-on examples and detailed resources that enhance efficiency and compliance. We are proud to continue providing tools and guidance that make reporting easier on behalf of our membership.

The workshop also highlighted the need to accurately report all individuals who are currently working after retirement to the System in a timely manner to ensure we are complying with the rules and regulations that govern this opportunity for retirees who return to work.

The interactive Q&A portion allowed attendees to clarify concerns and receive real-time support. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive; participants praised the practical tips and open dialogue with KCPSRS staff. In addition, the presence of so many employers at the workshop shows the dedication they have in making sure the retirement system continues to provide to our membership now and into the future.

Thank you to all who joined us, and we look forward to seeing you at our future workshops!

Planning for Retirement

Your KCPSRS retirement application, plus other required documents, must be submitted no later than 30 days prior to your effective retirement date. However, we recommend completing the application up to three months in advance. Retirement dates are always the 1st of the month. You must have terminated employment prior to the last day of the previous month. Example: You can retire July 1 if you properly terminate employment by June 30, even if you continue to receive paychecks through August per your employment contract.

Effective Retirement Date	Date Range Application May Be Submitted	Retirement Application Deadline
March 1	December 1 – January 31	January 31
April 1	January 1 – February 28	February 28
May 1	February 1 – March 31	March 31
June 1	March 1 – April 30	April 30
July 1	April 1 – May 31	May 31
August 1	May 1 – June 30	June 30
September 1	June 1 – July 31	July 31
October 1	July 1 – August 31	August 31
November 1	August 1 – September 30	September 30

Call 816-472-5800 option #2 to schedule a retirement counseling appointment within the date ranges shown in the table. You can refer to the **“Ready to Retire Guide”** located on our website for more information about what to prepare for when you are ready to retire.

Updated Your Beneficiaries

If a member dies before retirement benefits begin, the member’s contributions and interest will be paid to the member’s estate or designated beneficiary. Therefore, it is important that each member properly complete and submit a Designated Beneficiary form to the System. A properly completed beneficiary listing is critical for ensuring the System distributes a member’s contributions and interest according to the member’s wishes.

It is also important for members to regularly review and update their beneficiary information with the System. This is especially true when a significant event occurs in the member’s life such as marriage, the birth of a child, adoption of a child, divorce or death of a previously named beneficiary.

You can also find the Beneficiary Designation form on our website at www.kcpsrs.org by going to Active Members and clicking on Important Forms for Active Members.

Financial Security in Retirement

KCPSRS Retirement & Survivor Benefits

As a member of the Kansas City Public School Retirement System, you are a member of a defined benefit plan, with a contribution rate of 9%. Your employer contributes 12%, enhancing the retirement security of the plan. When you meet a certain age and appropriate number of service requirements, you can retire and receive a guaranteed lifetime monthly benefit. As a general rule, the longer you are employed by a member of our System, the higher the benefit you will receive upon retirement.

Employer and employee contributions account for over 40% of KCPSRS’ funding. The rest of our earnings are derived from investment returns. KCPSRS invests and professionally manages these funds.

Personal Retirement Plan

Some employers offer an option to also contribute to a personal tax-deferred retirement account. In those accounts, you are responsible for selecting specific investment funds. These are called defined contribution (DC) plans; your retirement disbursement is limited to your contributions and investment earnings.



**Stay connected on
social media**



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