

GASB Statement No. 45

Statement 45 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), *Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Post-employment Benefits other than Pension*, establishes standards for disclosure of information on post-employment benefits other than pension benefits by all state and local government employers.

To assist you, OPERS is providing the disclosure data required in paragraph 24 of GASB Statement 45. Please be aware, in addition to this information, you'll need to supply information from your records. A sample disclosure notice can be found in GASB Statement 45, Appendix D, Illustration 5.

A. Plan Description

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) administers three separate pension plans: The Traditional Pension Plan—a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan; the Member-Directed Plan—a defined contribution plan; and the Combined Plan—a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan that has elements of both a defined benefit and defined contribution plan.

OPERS maintains a cost-sharing multiple employer defined benefit post-employment health care plan, which includes a medical plan, prescription drug program and Medicare Part B premium reimbursement, to qualifying members of both the Traditional Pension and the Combined Plans. Members of the Member-Directed Plan do not qualify for ancillary benefits, including post-employment health care coverage.

In order to qualify for post-employment health care coverage, age-and-service retirees under the Traditional Pension and Combined Plans must have 10 or more years of qualifying Ohio service credit. Health care coverage for disability benefit recipients and qualified survivor benefit recipients is available. The health care coverage provided by OPERS meets the definition of an Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) as described in GASB Statement 45.

The Ohio Revised Code permits, but does not mandate, OPERS to provide OPEB benefits to its eligible members and beneficiaries. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided in Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code.

OPERS issues a stand-alone financial report. Interested parties may obtain a copy by visiting <https://www.opers.org/investments/cafr.shtml>, writing to OPERS, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, OH 43215-4642, or calling 614-222-5601 or 1-800-222-7377

B. Funding Policy

The Ohio Revised Code provides the statutory authority requiring public employers to fund post retirement health care through their contributions to OPERS. A portion of each employer's contribution to OPERS is set aside for the funding of post retirement health care benefits.

Employer contribution rates are expressed as a percentage of the covered payroll of active members. In 2011, state and local employers contributed at a rate of 14.00% of covered payroll and public safety and law enforcement employers contributed at 18.10%. These are the maximum employer contribution rates permitted by the Ohio Revised Code. Active members do not make contributions to the OPEB Plan.

OPERS' Post Employment Health Care plan was established under, and is administrated in accordance with, Internal Revenue Code 401(h). Each year, the OPERS Board of Trustees determines the portion of the employer contribution rate that will be set aside for funding of post employment health care benefits. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for members in the Traditional Plan was 4.0% during calendar year 2011. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for members in the Combined Plan was 6.05% during calendar year 2011. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2012 remained the same, but they are subject to change based on Board action. Employers will be notified if the portion allocated to health care changes during calendar year 2012. The OPERS Board of Trustees is also authorized to establish rules for the retiree, or their surviving beneficiaries, to pay a portion of the health care benefits provided. Payment amounts vary depending on the number of covered dependents and the coverage selected.

C. Information from employer's records

The rates stated in Section B, above, are the contractually required contribution rates for OPERS. As part of this disclosure, it will be necessary for the employer to disclose the employer contributions actually made to fund post-employment benefits. The portion of your employer contributions that were used to fund post-employment benefits can be approximated by multiplying actual employer contributions for calendar year 2011 by 0.2857 for state and local employers, and 0.2210 for law enforcement and public safety employers.

D. OPERS Retirement Board Implements its Health Care Preservation Plan.

The Health Care Preservation Plan (HCPP) adopted by the OPERS Board of Trustees on September 9, 2004, was effective January 1, 2007. Member and employer contribution rates for state and local employers increased on January 1 of each year from 2006 to 2008. Rates for law and public safety employers increased over a six year period beginning on January 1, 2006, with a final rate increase on January 1, 2011. These rate increases allowed additional funds to be allocated to the health care plan.