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Debra Duardo, M.S.W., Ed.D., Superintendent

May 12, 2022

TO:	Business, Payroll, and Personnel Administrators HRS Coordinators Los Angeles County School and Community College Districts Regional Occupational Centers/Programs (ROCs/Ps) and Charter Schools
FROM:	Claudette Wiggan-Reid, Retirement Systems Coordinator District Personnel Information Services Division of School Financial Services
SUBJECT:	Expiration of Executive Order for COVID-19 - CalPERS Retirees

The California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) issued Circular Letter: 200-025-22 which cancelled the exemption for retired annuitants related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The statutes for CalPERS retirees post-retirement employment were reinstated effective April 1, 2022. All retirees hired after 4/1/2022 should adhere to the following:

960-hour per fiscal year work limit

For retirees approved to work under the Governor's Executive Order, the hours worked between March 4, 2020 and March 31, 2022 are exempt from the 960 hour limit. However, all hours worked on or after 4/1/2022 will count towards the 960 hours limit for fiscal year 2021-22. Retirees are allowed to legally work a <u>maximum</u> of 960 hours within a single fiscal year at a CalPERS covered agency. It is the retiree's **and** the employer's responsibility to monitor the hours worked.

<u>180-day wait period after retirement</u>

If a district requires a retiree to return to work prior to the 180-day wait period, the district must submit a board resolution to the district's board. Send the board approved resolution to the district's PERS representative at the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE). Refer to Attachment No. 1 for sample resolutions and instructions.

60-day bona fide separation in service

If a member retires/will retire prior to his or her oldest benefit formula age, or the maximum normal retirement age of 62 (age 55 for 2% @ 55 formula, age 60 for 2% @ 60 formula, etc.), the district cannot have an agreement, written or verbal, for post-retirement employment before the member retires. This bona fide separation in service requirement is federal tax law and must be satisfied before obtaining a 180-day wait period exception.

Appointed once to a vacant position

If a governing body appoints a retiree to fill a vacant position on an interim basis, the retired person shall only be appointed once to this vacant position. Reappointment to the same position is a violation of post-employment laws.

Additional information regarding CalPERS retired annuitants:

- <u>Verification of employees in MyCalPERS</u>: Districts are **required** to verify all newly hired employees in myCalPERS in order to obtain their true status with CalPERS: Retiree, PEPRA member, Classic member or non-member. Complete the PERS Access form (Attachment No. 3) to obtain log-in and password information for myCalPERS. Return the completed form to the district's PERS representative. Districts also have the option to email the PERS representative in School Financial Services to check the status of new hires.
- <u>Compensation</u>: Per GC 21224, retirees pay rate should be listed on the publicly available salary schedule. Also, retirees should not be paid any benefit, incentive, compensation in lieu of benefits, or other form of compensation in addition to the hourly pay rate (i.e. longevity, shift). Please verify the district's HRS setup to ensure that retirees' pay rates are base amounts only.
- <u>Penalty for Late Enrollment & Late Reporting</u>: Assembly Bill 1309 updated Government Code Section 21220 to allow CalPERS to assess a \$200 penalty for late enrollment and \$200 for late reporting per retiree per month. It is possible for employers to pay \$400 per retiree per month until enrollment and reporting become current with CalPERS.
- <u>Retiree Penalty</u>: Retirees should not work in a permanent position. Retirees who do not adhere to the law will be re-instated to active service with contributions due on earnings. Their monthly benefits will be discontinued. CalPERS may require the employee to reimburse CalPERS for benefits that were paid while they were illegally working.
- <u>Independent Contractor/Consultants/Third-Party Employees</u>: Districts that hire a CalPERS retiree as an independent contractor, consultant or employee of a third-party should determine if an employer-employee relationship exists (common-law employer). If an employer-employee relationship exists, the retiree's earnings must be reported to CalPERS. The district must obtain the number of hours worked and the pay rate from the third-party employer. Next, they should enroll and report earnings for the retiree per the CalPERS requirements. If, there is no employer-employee relationship, then the employee is exempt from the post-retirement employment requirements.
- <u>Enroll Retiree</u>: Enter the employee into the Human Resource Systems (HRS) with a retirement plan of P3 and a status of "R" for retiree. Complete a Member Action Request form (MAR-1) and check "Yes" for retired annuitant. Submit the signed form to the Retirement Unit at LACOE. *Refer to LACOE's Bulletin No.* <u>4878</u> for the MAR-1 instructions.
- <u>Report Earnings</u>: CalPERS contributions should not be deducted from retired annuitants' earnings. Report the hourly pay rate, gross wages and number of hours worked on a <u>monthly</u> basis to CalPERS. *This will avoid the \$200 reporting penalty.*
 - Districts using LACOE's Human Resource System (HRS) should code retirees with a Retirement Plan of "P3" and Retirement Status "R" for retired. The retiree earnings will be reported with the current month retirement reporting to CalPERS.

- Districts that pay retired employees outside of HRS, should submit the retiree's earnings information to LACOE. Attachment No. 2 is an Excel spreadsheet that can be used to track retiree's earnings. Return the completed form to your representative in the Retirement Section. The form is due to LACOE by the 9th of each month for the prior month's accrual dates.
- Charter schools submitting retirement reports to LACOE should add the retirees to the regular monthly report. The retiree should be coded with a Retirement Plan of "P3" and Retirement Status "R" for retired. Reporting is due on the 5th of each month for the prior month's accrual dates.

If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please email Claudette Wiggan-Reid at wiggan claudette@lacoe.edu.

Approved: Nkeiruka Benson, Director Division of School Financial Services

CWR:lt Attachments

SFS-A49-2021-2022

Los Angeles County Office of Education Instructions for CalPERS Retiree 180-Day Wait Period Exception

Bona Fide Separation in Service: If a member retires/will retire prior to his or her oldest benefit formula age, or the maximum normal retirement age of 62 (age 55 for 2% @ 55 formula, age 60 for 2% @ 60 formula, etc.), you cannot have an agreement, written or verbal, for post-retirement employment before the member retires. This bona fide separation in service requirement is federal tax law and must be met before obtaining a 180-day wait period exception. For additional details, see "Employment of a Retiree" in the Public Agency & Schools Reference Guide at: <u>https://www.calpers.ca.gov/docs/forms-publications/pas-ref-guide.pdf</u>

Note: A retiree must terminate retirement to be employed as a permanent part-time or any other type of regular staff employee.

Attached are two sample resolutions for school employers to use for approving a 180-day wait period exception.

- Extra Help: The resolution for G.C. Sections 7522.56 & 21229 is for extra help retired annuitants, i.e., CalPERS retirees hired to perform work for a limited time period, such as elimination of a backlog, special project work, or to perform work in excess of what regular staff can do. Appoint retirees to retired annuitant designated positions only.
- Vacant Position: The resolution for G.C. Sections 7522.56 & 21221(h) is for a vacant position retired annuitant, i.e., a CalPERS retiree hired to work in a vacant position while you recruit for a permanent replacement. Use this resolution to appoint a retiree to positions such as an interim superintendent, interim department head and to any other unique managerial or executive position. An open recruitment to fill the vacancy with a permanent replacement is required in order to appoint a retiree. A retiree can only be appointed once to the same vacant position.

Steps:

- 1) Complete the "Vacant Position" or the "Extra Help" Resolution depending on the help that the retiree will be providing (*not both*).
- 2) The district's governing body of the school district should pass and sign the resolution. (*Allow time for LACOE's board approval process*).
- 3) Submit the following documents to LACOE before the employment begins:
 - Executed and signed resolution,
 - Copy of the employment agreement or personnel appointment paperwork,
 - Copy of the publicly available salary schedule listing the comparable or vacant position
 - Recruitment status for a vacant position Section 21221(h) appointment—include a copy of the website recruitment.

Return all the items to the Los Angeles County Office of Education via email to:

<u>Stevenson_Tatiana@lacoe.edu</u> <u>Wiggan_Claudette@lacoe.edu</u>

To obtain additional information, please call: (562) (562) 922-6573 or (562) 922-6565.

4) District must obtain approval from LACOE prior to the retiree's first day of work. The resolutions and documents will be submitted for LACOE's board approval at the next available meeting.

Note: This resolution will be submitted to LACOE's Board after district board approval

 Resolution Number _____

 Date of Resolution _____

_____(District Name)

RESOLUTION FOR 180-DAY WAIT PERIOD EXCEPTION G.C. Sections 7522.56 & 21229 - Extra Help Resolution

WHEREAS, in compliance with Government Code Section 7522.56 the______ (*district name*) must provide CalPERS this certification resolution when hiring a retiree before 180 days has passed since his or her retirement date; and

WHEREAS, Section 7522.56 requires that post-retirement employment commence no earlier than 180 days after the retirement date, which is ______ (*date of 181st day after retirement*) without this certification resolution; and

WHEREAS, Section 7522.56 provides that this exception to the 180-day wait period shall not apply if the retiree accepts any retirement-related incentive; and

WHEREAS, the ______ (*district name*) and ______ (*retiree name*) certify that ______ (*district name*) has not and will not receive a Golden Handshake or any other retirement-related incentive; and

WHEREAS, the______ (*district name*) hereby appoints ______ (*retiree name*) as an extra help retired annuitant to perform the duties of the ______ (*position name*) for the ______ (*district name*) under Government Code Section 21229 effective ______ (*retiree expected start date*); and

WHEREAS, no matters, issues, terms or conditions related to this employment and appointment have been or will be placed on a consent calendar

WHEREAS, the employment shall be limited to 960 hours per fiscal year for all CalPERS employers; and

WHEREAS, the compensation paid to retirees cannot be less than the minimum nor exceed the maximum monthly base salary paid to other employees performing comparable duties, divided by 173.333 to equal the hourly rate; and

WHEREAS, the maximum base salary for this position is ______ (monthly salary) and the hourly equivalent is ______ (hourly rate), and the minimum base salary for this position is ______ (monthly salary) and the hourly equivalent is ______ (hourly rate); and

WHEREAS, the hourly rate paid to ______ (*retiree name*) will be ______ (*hourly rate*);

WHEREAS, ______ (*retiree name*) has not and will not receive any other benefit, incentive, compensation in lieu of benefit or other form of compensation in addition to this hourly pay rate; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the		(district name) hereby
certifies the nature of the appointment of		(retiree name) as described herein
and detailed in the attached employment agreeme	ent/contract/appoint	tment document and that this
appointment is necessary to fill the critically need	led position of	(position
<i>name</i>) for the	(district name) by	(date
employment begins) because		•

(describe the reasons and conditions that require this position be filled by the listed date).

Yes _____

No _____

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____ in the year _____.

District Superintendent

District Board President/Secretary

Note: This resolution will be submitted to LACOE's Board after district baord approval

 Resolution Number _____

 Date of Resolution _____

(District Name)

RESOLUTION FOR 180-DAY WAIT PERIOD EXCEPTION G.C. Sections 7522.56 & 21221(h) – Vacant Position

WHEREAS, in compliance with Government Code Section 7522.56 the _______(school district name) must provide CalPERS this certification resolution when hiring a retiree before 180 days has passed since his or her retirement date; and

WHEREAS,	(retiree	name),	
(CalPERS ID or last 4 digits of the social	security number) reti	red from _	
(employer from which retired) in the posit	ion of		_ (name of position from
which retired), effective	(CalPERS retire	ement date,); and

WHEREAS, Section 7522.56 requires that post-retirement employment commence no earlier than 180 days after the retirement date, which is ______ (*date of 181st day after retirement*) without this certification resolution; and

WHEREAS, Section 7522.56 provides that this exception to the 180-day wait period shall not apply if the retiree accepts any retirement-related incentive; and

WHEREAS, the ______ (school district name) and ______ (retiree name) certify that ______ (retiree name) has not and will not receive a Golden Handshake or any other retirement-related incentive; and

 WHEREAS, the _______ (school district name) hereby appoints

 _______ (retiree name) as an interim appointment retired annuitant to the vacant

 position of ______ (position name) for the _______ (school district name)

 under Government Code section 21221(h), effective _______ (date of appointment); and

WHEREAS, an appointment under Government Code section 21221(h) requires an active, publicly posted recruitment for a permanent replacement; and

WHEREAS, the current status of this recruitment is ______ (describe status of the recruitment); and

WHEREAS, this section 21221(h) appointment shall only be made once and therefore will end on *(termination date of appointment)*; and

WHEREAS, no matters, issues, terms or conditions related to this employment and appointment have been or will be placed on a consent calendar; and

WHEREAS, the employment shall be limited to 960 hours per fiscal year for all CalPERS employers; and

WHEREAS, the compensation paid to retirees cannot be less than the minimum nor exceed the maximum monthly base salary paid to other employees performing comparable duties, divided by 173.333 to equal the hourly rate; and

WHEREAS, the maximum base	e salary for this position is	(monthly salary)
and the hourly equivalent is	(<i>hourly rate</i>), and the minimum	base salary for this
position is	(monthly salary) and the hourly equivalent is	
(hourly rate); and		

WHEREAS, the hourly rate paid to ______ (*retiree name*) will be ______ (*hourly rate*); and

WHEREAS, ______ (*retiree name*) has not and will not receive any other benefit, incentive, compensation in lieu of benefit or other form of compensation in addition to this hourly pay rate; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the _________ (school district name) hereby certifies the nature of the employment of _________ (retiree name) as described herein and detailed in the attached employment agreement / contract / appointment document and that this appointment is necessary to fill the critically needed position of _______ (position name) for the ________ (school district name) by ________.

(describe the reasons and conditions that require this position be filled by the listed date).

Yes _____

No_____

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____ in the year _____.

District Superintendent

District Board President/Secretary

Los Angles County Office of Education Division of School Financial Services CalSTRS Retired Annuitant Monthly Reporting

District Name:

District No:

CERTIFICATED

Retiree Name:	SS#	Accrual Dates	Annualized Retirement Reporting Rate**	Hourly Rate	Hours Worked	Total
John Smith (EXAMPLE)	###-##-####	01/01/2018-1/31/2018 (1st day to the last date of the month)	\$62,500.00	\$ 100.00	180.50	ć 18.050.00
John Shitu (EXAMPLE)	********		<i>\\</i>	\$ 100.00	180.50	\$ 18,050.00 \$ -
						\$ -
						4
						\$ - \$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$-
						\$-
						\$-
						\$-
						\$-
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$-
						\$ -
		TOTAL:			180.50	\$ 18,050.00

**Annualized Retirement Reporting Rate - use the annualized full-time compensation earnable for employees performing duties comparable to the retired member activities. CalSTRS requires monthly reporting of retirees earnings. Please return this spreadsheet by the 9th for the prior month.

Return the completed sheet to your representative in the Retirement Section with a cc to:

Ellzey_Nekeara@lacoe.edu and Gutierrez_Veronica@lacoe.edu.

Attachment No. 2 Info. Bul. No. 5527 SFS-A49-2021-2022

Los Angles County Office of Education Division of School Financial Services CalPERS Retired Annuitant Monthly Reporting

District Name:

District No:

CLASSIFIED

Retiree Name:	SS#	Accrual Dates	Hourly Rate	Hours Worked	Total
		01/01/2018-1/31/2018			
John Smith (EXAMPLE)	###-##-####	(1st day to the last date of the month)	\$ 100.00	180.50	\$ 18,050.00
					\$ -
					\$ _
					\$ -
		TOTAL:		180.50	\$ 18,050.00

Effective July 1, 2018, CalPERS will assess a \$200 penalty for enrollment and \$200 for late reporting per retiree per month .

CalPERS requires monthly reporting of retirees earnings. Please return this spreadsheet by the 9th for the prior month.

Return the completed sheet to your representative in the Retirement Section with a cc to:

Stevenson_Tatiana@lacoe.edu

and Chen_Corinne@lacoe.edu.



CalPERS Access Form

PERS Health Coverage:

Does this district have health coverage through CalPERS? (*Required*) Yes No

District Information:

Supervisor's Name:	
School District / Agency:	
Title:	
Telephone:	
E-Mail:	

The following employee requires access to MyCalPERS as follows:

- D Payroll (RO) Inquiry view employees' information and contributions reported to MCP
- Enrollment (RO) Inquiry view employees' membership and retirement status, i.e. Classic/PEPRA
- □ Arrears & SCP Certification initiates buy-back and certify payroll information for buy-backs and other transactions
- □ Retirement Contracts for districts with additional contracts at CalPERS only, i.e. school police
- □ Social Security Contact will complete the Annual Information Request (AIR) and will receive SSSA invoices
- □ Supplemental Income Plan districts with 457 plans
- CERBT/CEPPT: Retiree Benefit Trust (IRS Section 115)
- □ GASB Contact
- □ Primary District Contact

User Information:

Employee's Name:

Is this employee a CalPERS mem		□ No			
If answer is "no," please provide	the person's Date of	Birth			
LACOE EID / SSN:					
District Address:					
Phone Number:					
E-Mail:					
Possible Username (if available): _					
Supervisor's Signature:			Date:		
LACOE OFFICE USE ONLY					
User Name:			Process Date:		