

GASB Statement No. 27

Statement 27 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), *Accounting for Pensions by State and Local Governmental Employers*, requires public employers to provide detailed disclosure of pension information in financial statements and accompanying information.

To assist you, OPERS is providing the disclosure data required in paragraph 20 of GASB Statement 27. Please be aware that, in addition to this information, you will need to supply information from your records. A sample disclosure notice can be found in GASB Statement 27, Appendix D, Illustration 3.

- A. Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) administers three separate pension plans as described below:
 1. **The Traditional Pension Plan** – a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan.
 2. **The Member-Directed Plan** – a defined contribution plan in which the member invests both member and employer contributions (employer contributions vest over five years at 20% per year). Under the Member-Directed Plan, members accumulate retirement assets equal to the value of member and (vested) employer contributions plus any investment earnings.
 3. **The Combined Plan** – a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. Under the Combined Plan, OPERS invests employer contributions to provide a formula retirement benefit similar in nature to, but less than, the Traditional Pension Plan benefit. Member contributions, the investment of which is self-directed by the members, accumulate retirement assets in a manner similar to the Member-Directed Plan.
- B. OPERS provides retirement, disability, survivor and death benefits and annual cost-of living adjustments to members of the Traditional Pension and Combined Plans. Members of the Member-Directed Plan do not qualify for ancillary benefits.
- C. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided in Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code.
- D. OPERS issues a stand-alone financial report. Interested parties may obtain a copy by visiting <https://www.opers.org/investments/cafr.shtml>, by writing to OPERS, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, OH 43215-4642, or by calling 614-222-5601 or 800-222-7377
- E. The Ohio Revised Code provides statutory authority for member and employer contributions. For 2014, member and employer contribution rates were consistent across all three plans. While members in the state and local divisions may participate in all three plans, law enforcement and public safety officers participate in only the Traditional Pension Plan.
- F. The 2014 member contribution rates were 10.00% of earnable salary for members in state and local classifications. Public safety and law enforcement members contributed 12.00% and 13.00%, respectively.
- G. The 2014 employer contribution rate for state and local employers was 14.00% of earnable salary. The law enforcement and public safety division employer contribution rate was 18.10% of earnable salary.
- H. Total required employer contributions for all plans are equal to 100% of employer charges and should be extracted from the employer's records.
- I. In June 2012, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued GASB Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions*. This accounting standard replaces GASB Statement 27, and it is effective for employer fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2014. OPERS recommends employers begin a dialog with their external auditors to determine the impact this standard will have on employer financial statements.