



## S-60/ORP IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE #20 (7/20/16)

### PROGRESS REPORT

On July 15, 2016 MTA met with a representative of the Department of Higher Education to review implementation of Section 60. Following is a summary of the main topics of discussion. No one from the State Retirement Board participated.

#### **1. Transfers of liquid ORP assets**

The two temporary FTE's at the DHE have continued to implement (liquid) asset transfers at a faster rate than was possible before May. As of July 15<sup>th</sup>, liquid assets for 671 of 1,467 Section 60 MSERS members had been transferred to the SRB.

It will be important that the DHE be able to retain temporary staff through FY 2017. The DHE has not taken action to secure additional funding for this.

#### **2. Transfer of non-liquid ORP assets: no answers yet**

As noted above, the SRB had no representation at the meeting on July 15<sup>th</sup>, and has not provided any further information about allowing the use of TIAA's installment payments as a method to transfer "locked funds."

The SRB has concerns about the duration of installment payment plans and about its ability to ensure that all monies due under Section 60 will be paid.

#### **3. The MTA Estimator: not too late to check**

Even if you have already made your election to enroll in the MSERS, if you think that there may be an error in your service cost, it is worth using the MTA Estimator in the S-60 ORP Toolkit on the MTA website.

The Toolkit is at [www.massteacher.org/issues\\_and\\_action/ongoing\\_issues/orp.aspx](http://www.massteacher.org/issues_and_action/ongoing_issues/orp.aspx).

If you have questions about using the Estimator, please send an email to [orp@massteacher.org](mailto:orp@massteacher.org).

#### **4. SRB and uncashed asset transfer checks**

On occasion, even recently, the SRB has not cashed a transfer check within 60 days. TIAA sends a warning letter to the member when this happens. It is important that you let the SRB and the DHE know immediately if you receive such a letter. A TIAA check must clear within 90 days of the date on the checks. Complications arise if an ORP check becomes stale-dated or if you stop payment.

The SRB should be notified at [orpinfo@tre.state.ma.us](mailto:orpinfo@tre.state.ma.us).

The DHE should be notified at [ORP@bhe.mass.edu](mailto:ORP@bhe.mass.edu).

It is advisable to stay in communication with your contacts at TIAA about this as well.

As a last resort, if the check does not clear within two weeks of the TIAA letter, contact the MTA at [orp@massteacher.org](mailto:orp@massteacher.org).

#### **5. Conclusion**

Another reminder: those of you who have TIAA Traditional ORP assets in excess of \$5,000 and who are not retiring before January 1, 2016 are urged to review the information in S-60/ORP Update #17.

Please let the Retirement Board know if you have questions about the aspects of the process handled by the SRB, i.e., service and cost calculations, bills and methods of payment. The email address is [orpinfo@tre.state.ma.us](mailto:orpinfo@tre.state.ma.us).

Please let the Department of Higher Education know if you have questions about the aspects of the process handled by the DHE, i.e., information packages, transfer of assets. The email address is [ORP@bhe.mass.edu](mailto:ORP@bhe.mass.edu).

If you are unable to get an answer, or are confused about an answer or where to direct a question, please contact the MTA at [orp@massteacher.org](mailto:orp@massteacher.org).