

# Pension

This section is provided to supplement the budget document. The Pension Plan represents a significant expense for Harford County Public Schools. The employees of the school system are covered by one of the following cost-sharing multiple-employer retirement/pension systems:

- Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Maryland;
- Teachers Pension System for Teachers of the State of Maryland;
- Employees' Retirement System of the State of Maryland; or,
- Employees Pension System of the State of Maryland.

Each plan provides pension, death, and disability benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. The Plans are administered by the State Retirement Agency. Responsibility for the administration and operation of the Retirement/Pension System is vested in the Board of Trustees. The State Personnel and Pensions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland established the Pension System. The Pension System issues a publicly available financial report at [www.sra.state.md.us](http://www.sra.state.md.us).

## **FUNDING POLICY**

The State Personnel and Pension Article require active members to contribute to the Retirement or Pension System at the rate of 5 percent or 7 percent of their covered salary depending upon the retirement option selected. This is administered through an employee payroll deduction that HCPS forwards to the State Retirement Agency.

The combined State contribution rate for 2013 of covered payroll is established by annual actuarial valuations. The rate is sufficient to fund normal costs and amortize the unfunded actuarial accrued liability over a 40-year period, as provided by law, from July 1, 1980.

The State pays a substantial portion of the school system's annual required contributions to the Teachers' Retirement Systems on behalf of the school system. The actual pension contribution by the State on behalf of our employees in the Teachers Retirement and Pension Systems is based on the approved budget of the State. For FY 2013 the HCPS school system employer contribution is expected to increase by \$15,168 or .4%. The State contribution and the HCPS school system contribution is related to the number of current employees, new employees hired in FY 2012, and the contribution to the new Alternate Contributory Pension Plan. The State contribution decreased in FY 2012 due to teacher retirements and the replacement teacher's salaries costing less than the retirees. The HCPS school system contribution increased in FY 2012 primarily due to an annual administrative fee of \$728,931 assessed by the State of Maryland in FY 2012.

## **State Retirement And Pension System Information\***

	Actual FY 2009	Actual FY 2010	Actual FY 2011	Budget FY 2012	Budget FY 2013
<b>Contribution Sources:</b>					
State Aid to Local School Systems	26,419,617	31,578,248	34,323,976	33,360,568	33,360,568
Harford County Public Schools**	1,885,583	1,968,143	2,849,311	3,690,657	3,705,825
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$28,305,200</b>	<b>\$33,546,391</b>	<b>\$37,173,287</b>	<b>\$37,051,225</b>	<b>\$37,066,393</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$28,305,200</b>	<b>\$33,546,391</b>	<b>\$37,173,287</b>	<b>\$37,051,225</b>	<b>\$37,066,393</b>

\* Employer contribution information (State pays school based employees employer contribution)

\*\* Includes all funds

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## **ANNUAL PENSION COST**

The school system will make the employer required annual contributions to the Employee's Pension Systems as well as those related to positions in the Teacher's Pension Systems funded through federal and state restricted programs. For FY 2013, the Board's annual pension cost of \$3,705,825 is equal to its required and actual contribution. This required contribution was determined as part of the June 30, 2009 actuarial valuation using the entry age actuarial cost method.

The actuarial assumptions included<sup>1</sup>:

- 7.75 percent investment rate of return, compounded annually;
- The member contribution rate was increased for members of the Teacher's Pension System and Employee's Pension System from 5% to 7%, and from 4% to 6% in fiscal year 2012 and 7% in fiscal year 2013
- In addition, the benefit attributable to service on or after July 1, 2011, will be subject to different cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) that is based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index and capped at 2.5% or 1.0% based on whether the market value investment return for the preceding calendar year was higher or lower than the investment return assumption used in the valuation (currently 7.75%)

In the 2001 legislative session, the Legislature changed the method used to fund the two largest Systems of the MSRPS, the Teachers Combined System and the State portion of the Employees Combined System, to a corridor method. Under this funding approach, the State appropriation is fixed at the prior fiscal year's rate, but adjusted to reflect the cost of any legislative changes, as long as the actuarial funded status of these Systems remains in a corridor of 90% funded to 110% funded. Once the ratio falls outside this corridor, the appropriated or budgeted rate will be adjusted one-fifth of the way toward the underlying actuarially calculated rate, with the exception of the cost of/or the savings from legislative changes, which are fully recognized regardless of whether the Systems are within or outside of the corridor.

The employer contribution rate for FY 2013, based on an actuarial valuation for June 30, 2011, is 12.41% for the Employees Retirement System and 7.41% for the Employees' Pension System.

The State of Maryland contributes 13.29% for employees within the Teachers Retirement and Pension Systems.

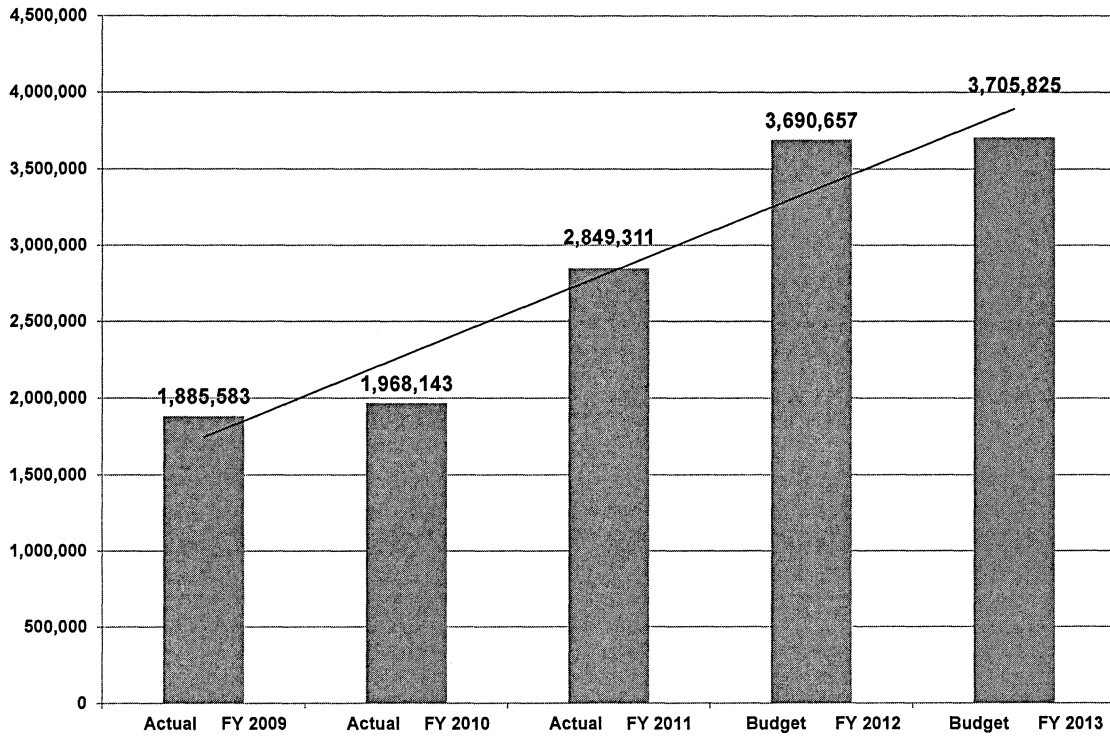
Charts on the following page represent a trend line increase in the retirement and pension payments made by Harford County Public Schools as well as payments made by the State of Maryland on behalf of our employees who are members of the Teachers Retirement & Pension System.

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<sup>1</sup> Maryland State Retirement System 2011 CAFR – Actuarial Section

# Pension

## Growth in HCPS Employee Pension Expenditures Non Certificated Employees



## Growth In HCPS Teacher's Retirement & Pension System Expenditures paid by State of Maryland

