



NEWS TO USE

A newsletter for PERSI employers

September 2011

- Protect Your Password
- GASB Comment Period
- PERSI & Facebook
- RS109 Form
- Lawmaker Connections

NEVER SHARE YOUR PASSWORD WITH ANYONE -- even to access the employer portal--

Last month's newsletter included an article about using the Employer Portal, a restricted section of the PERSI website. As a point of clarification, during times of vacation, extended illness, or leaves of absence when employers authorize a secondary employee to access the Employer Portal, each person granted access should use their own password to log in. ***Passwords should not be shared with or disclosed to anyone.***

GASB COMMENT PERIOD ENDS SOON

The deadline for submitting written comments to the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) about the proposed changes to its accounting and reporting standards for government-provided employee pensions is September 30, 2011.

As reported in the August *News To Use* newsletter, PERSI strongly recommends employers review the GASB 27 Exposure Draft because the proposed changes will impact how net pension liabilities would be shown on the employer's financial

statements in the future. A plain language supplement of the GASB Exposure Draft (page 10 is of importance) is on the GASB website following this link: http://www.gasb.org/cs/ContentServer?site=GASB&c=Document_C&pagename=GASB%2FDocument_C%2FGASBDocumentPage&cid=1176158723743.

After reading the supplement and Exposure Draft, employers may want to consider submitting written comments to GASB by the September 30th deadline.

CHECK OUT PERSI'S FACEBOOK PAGE



PERSI is testing out the social media waters. During a 6-month trial phase that began in June, PERSI will be utilizing Facebook to connect with and educate members.

Initially many of the posts will come from news announcements on the PERSI website (www.persi.idaho.gov); but as more is learned about using this tool, the program could expand. For example, when the stock market started its most recent ups and downs, PERSI posted a notice that the portfolio was behaving as it should given the environment. Members were reminded that PERSI sticks with

its investment strategy because it has served the system well over the years.

To check out PERSI's Facebook page, members can click the Facebook icon located on the homepage of the PERSI website, do a search on Facebook for the Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho, or follow this link: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Public-Employee-Retirement-System-of-Idaho/186635028045231>.

PERSI is going to continue learning more about how Facebook can be used as an education tool, and will monitor activity to determine if it makes sense to continue. We will keep you updated.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RS109 FORM

NOTE: Employers who file their transmittals electronically, need only submit an RS 109 form when an employee retires. Other situations are reported to PERSI on the Transmittal Report. See the Employer Transmittal Reporting Manual on the PERSI website for more details.

date is September 22nd, the termination date would be September 10th.

- School districts: The contract end-date (generally August 31st) is the termination date, not the last day of school.

The *Notice of Change in Employment Status* form, known as an RS109, is an important form used to notify PERSI when employees resign, terminate, retire, die, become disabled, take or return from a leave of absence without pay, become ineligible for PERSI membership because their work hours dropped below 20 per week (less than half-time contract for teachers), or when the term ends for an elected or appointed official. The RS109 form also includes a place for reporting an employee's final pay and any unused sick leave balance for school districts and state employees.

This information is important because the dates of hire and termination determine eligibility for PERSI membership and service credit. If an employee is PERSI-eligible (working 20 hours or more per week for five consecutive months), the hire and termination dates determine whether the employee worked at least 15 days during a calendar month. If they work at least 15 days during the month, they receive a month of service credit...and service credit is used to calculate a retirement benefit.

Determining the Termination Date

PERSI cannot pay benefits until an RS109 is received from the employer certifying an employee's new employment status.

The RS109 form includes several pages of instructions to assist employers in accurately completing the forms. Employers can submit the form either online or via fax. If an employer receives an RS109 request letter from PERSI, the letter should be returned to PERSI at the same time the completed form is returned.

The termination date is the last day the employee is entitled to receive pay...not the date of the final paycheck.

- Non-school districts: If an employee's last day of employment is September 10th, but the pay

To learn more about new hire and termination reporting, check out the Employer Training Manual on the PERSI website.

PERSI CONNECTING WITH LAWMAKERS

Much like last summer, Executive Director Don Drum is once again traveling throughout the state to visit with lawmakers, employers, and members.

Several communiqués have already gone to lawmakers (and will continue over the coming months). Along with a cover letter, documents sent to legislators thus far have included a three-page research study titled *Pension System Perspectives in Today's Environment*, spelling out the risks and rewards of public pensions; an article from the Idaho Statesman's *Business Insider* magazine featuring PERSI Chief Investment Officer Bob Maynard on how PERSI stays focused during turbulent economic times; a comparison of Idaho's system to the Utah system, which is held by some as the model to watch

(also included in this third installment was a newly released study titled *Sensible Solutions, Model Public Pension Funding Practices: Lessons from Six Well-Funded Systems* where PERSI was cited as using best practices necessary for fund stability and sustainability. This report also recognized PERSI for remaining well-funded throughout the 2008-09 economic downturn). The most recent letter showed lawmakers how PERSI benefits help boost the Idaho economy. All of the letters and supporting documents are available on the PERSI website at http://www.persi.idaho.gov/pension_news.cfm.

PERSI encourages employers to read the documents and to let their employees know about the availability of these materials.