

Teacher Pension Policy in Alaska

A report card on the sustainability, flexibility and fairness of state teacher pension systems

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For more information about Alaska and other states' teacher retirement policies, including full narrative analyses, recommendations and state responses, see www.nctq.org/statePolicy

Alaska's pension system ratings

Sustainability

Pension system is stable and well-funded. 

Flexibility

Pension system is flexible and fair to all teachers. 

Neutrality

Retiree benefits to teachers accrue uniformly with each additional year of work. 

 fully meets goal  nearly meets goal  meets goal in part  meets a small part of goal  does not meet goal

Snapshot of Alaska's pension system

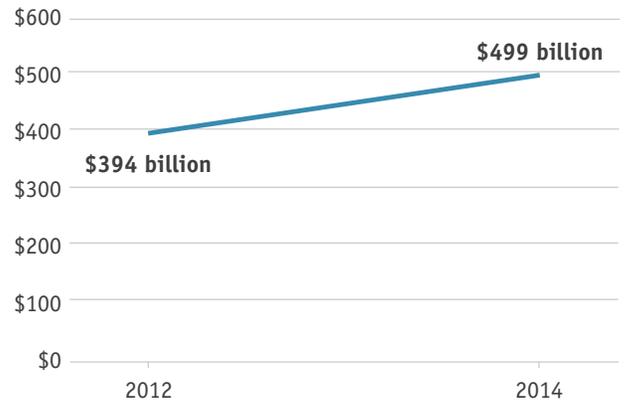
Teacher pension system is well-funded (at least 90%).	NO
Teachers have the option of a fully portable primary pension plan.	YES
Teachers vest in three years or less.	NO
Teachers leaving early can take at least a partial employer contribution with them.	YES
Teacher and district contribution rates are reasonable.	YES
Retirement eligibility is based on age only.	YES
Pension benefits accrue in a way that treats each year of work uniformly.	YES

Alaska pension system characteristics

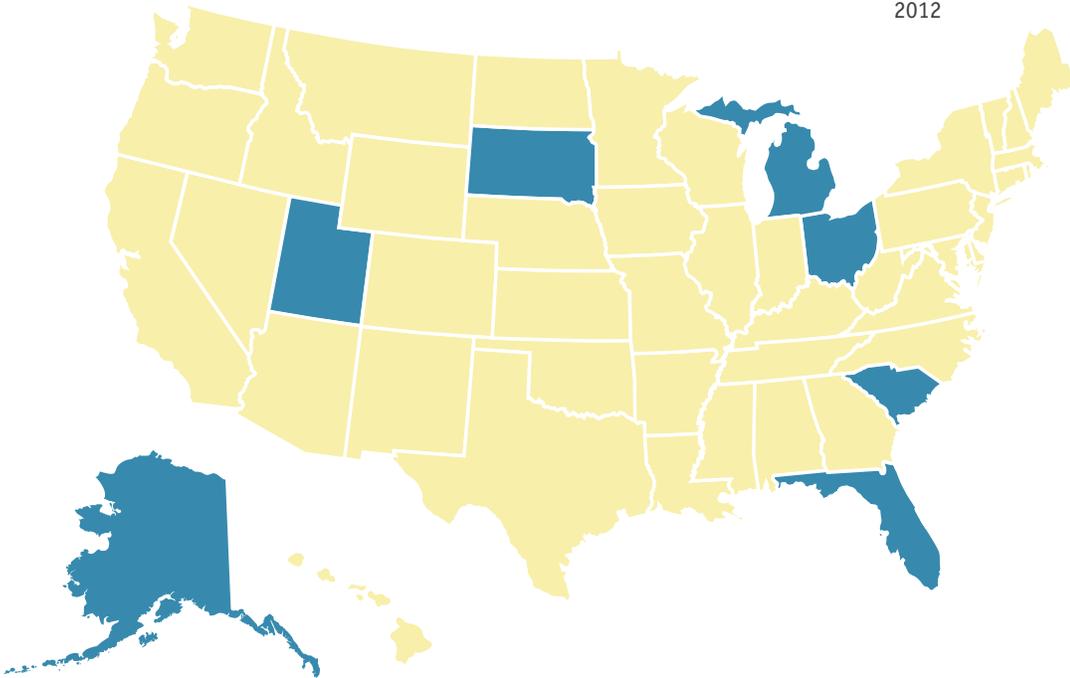
Type of plan	Defined contribution (DC) only
Unfunded liabilities (percent of system funded)	\$3,204,783,000 (49.90%) based on legacy costs from closed system
Vesting period	Fully vested in employer's contributions at 5 years
Teacher contribution rate (percent of salary)	8%
Employer contribution rate (percent of salary)	12.6% district 37% state
Basis for retirement eligibility	Any age
Cost of living adjustments	Does not apply to DC plan
Participation in Social Security	No
Contributions teachers may withdraw from plans if they leave after 5 years	Full contributions plus interest
Policy for purchasing time for prior teaching or approved leave	Does not apply to DC plan
Cost per teacher of allowing retirement before age 65	\$0

Teacher pension trends in the U.S.

Teacher pension system debt has reached a half trillion dollars.

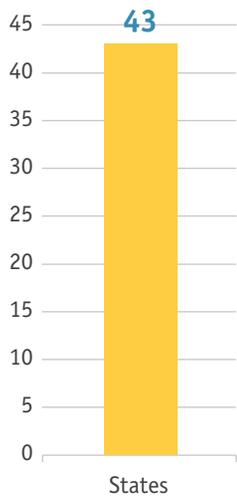


Just seven states offer a fully or nearly fully portable primary pension plan for teachers.

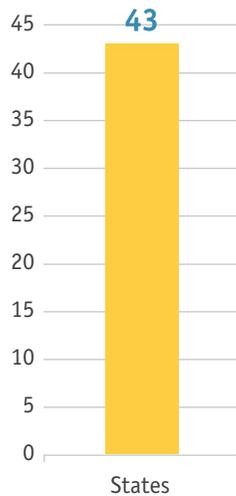


Other indicators also reflect worrisome trends.

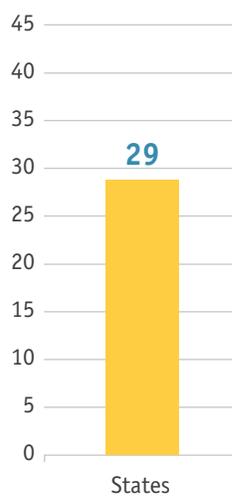
Number of states where pension funding ratios have decreased since 2008



Number of states that require excessive contributions of teachers, employers or both



Number of states that have increased teacher contribution rates since 2008



Number of states that have ten-year teacher vesting periods

