



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

April 30, 2026

Robert H. Walls Jr.
Board Chairman
Teacher Retirement System of Texas Board of Trustees
P.O. Box 149676
Austin, Texas 78714

Dear Chairman Walls:

Texas has long supported the retired public educators who dedicated their careers to teaching the next generation of Texans. Over the past several years, the State has made historic investments to strengthen retirement security and provide meaningful financial relief to these individuals. The State's ongoing support to retired educators has created another opportunity to return savings directly to our retired teachers.

In 2023, I signed legislation providing a cost-of-living adjustment and supplemental payment to retired teachers, representing a \$5 billion investment that permanently increased monthly annuities. This built on prior efforts, including additional payments provided in 2019 and 2021. These actions reflect Texas' continued commitment to those who have served our students and communities.

During my tenure, the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) has strengthened the TRS-Care fund from prior shortfalls to a stable and well-managed position. Through strong health plan management, TRS generated significant savings within the TRS-Care Medicare Advantage program. Beginning in 2025, TRS used those savings to lower premiums for eligible participants and offer a limited-time enrollment opportunity for retired teachers. These actions saved participants between \$720 and \$4,884 annually. This sound management continues to yield benefits.

TRS has recently reported a continued positive TRS-Care fund balance that provides opportunity to evaluate an additional reduction in premiums for TRS-Care Medicare Advantage participants. Therefore, I direct the TRS Board of Trustees to implement the maximum feasible premium reductions that preserve the long-term financial stability of the TRS-Care fund. Our educators spend their professional lives supporting Texans, and Texas remains committed to ensuring they are supported throughout their retirement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott
Governor