



Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois

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Letters to the Editor
The New York Times
620 Eighth Avenue
New York, New York 10018
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To the Editor:

A statement in the Times' September 19 story (Next School Crisis for Chicago: Pension Fund Is Running Dry) that the State of Illinois "pays most" of a teacher's salary contribution for his or her pension is inaccurate.

State government pays no part of any teacher's 9.4 percent salary contribution to Teachers' Retirement System. Teacher contributions last year totaled \$909 million. State government paid a separate contribution to TRS of \$2.4 billion.

In a larger context, the false issue of "who pays" is meaningless and only serves to politicize the pension reform debate. In reality it is the taxpayer "who pays" for everything – all salaries and all pension contributions. Taxpayers are the only source of revenue for school districts and state government.

Sincerely,

Dick Ingram
Executive Director
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