State of Alaska
Department of Administration
Division of Retirement & Benefits

Combined Retirement System (CRS) –
Modernization Project
CRS Modernization

Agenda

• Background

• Why Change?

• System Modernization

• Other Items
BACKGROUND
Combined Retirement System

- The Combined Retirement System, or CRS, started production in the late 1990s.
- It was initially used as a retiree payroll processing system, issuing the monthly retirement checks.
- Use as an employer subsidiary system and payroll processing program began in 2000 replacing a much older system.
Combined Retirement System

Use by the Division

• CRS is a mainframe product
• Support for this system is slowly eroding
• System upgrades are difficult, time consuming, and modification is expensive
• Multiple iterations of programs used by employers to migrate data, like DataEntr and eReporting
Combined Retirement System

Use by Employers

• Much work is performed AFTER data is imported into CRS

• Payroll “errors” are not noted until payroll is matched up with CRS information

• System is still functional, but many years of improvements are available for data entry, compliance, and processing
WHY CHANGE?
Why Change?

- CRS is old and not supported by vendor
- Great advances in technology that are not being used
- Currently using multiple programs to do the work that are available in one system
- New system would be more efficient for the Retirement Systems and provide better products for the employers and members
Why Change?

- This upgraded system will replace many manual processes performed by the Division.
- The Division will have everything under an integrated system (replacing multiple systems the Division currently uses with duplicate data).
- Able to integrate the health benefits of the retirement plans, eliminating duplicate work.
SYSTEM MODERNIZATION
System Modernization

• New vendor is Sagitec

• Sagitec is headquartered in Minnesota with offices in the USA, Canada, and other international areas

• They design and deliver tailor-made pension, and health and life software solutions to clients of all sizes
System Modernization

• Their product is called NEOSPIN, but DRB will rebrand with something “catchy and cool” 😊

• Browser-based software system

• Benefit to members and employers with self-service capabilities

• Changes the way DRB interacts with employers and members
System Modernization

- Employer payroll reporting will change
- Payroll staff will be able to see and correct errors prior to submitting the files for processing
- More error checking capabilities ahead of time will eliminate back and forth with DRB
- DRB will update employers on key dates and impacts
System Modernization

Systems using Sagitec

• Ohio School Employees’ Retirement System
• Denver Employees’ Retirement Plans
• Kentucky TRS
• North Dakota PERS
• Virginia Retirement System
• Kansas PERS
System Modernization

Systems using Sagitec

- Fire & Police Pension Association of Colorado
- Massachusetts State Retirement Board
- Montana PERA
- Missouri County Employees’ Retirement Fund
- California TRS
- Utah Retirement System
OTHER ITEMS
Other Items

Teacher Service End Dates

- Teacher Service End (TSE) letters sent to your payroll staff by email on April 30th with a reminder sent the week of May 18
- TSE and TERM events need to be entered to ensure that service is correct
- TSE dates are to be entered the day after the last day worked; TERM events need to be entered as of the last day worked
Employer Contribution Rates

- Employer contribution rates for FY 2021 are adopted by ARM Board
- Located on DRB website –
  - Select “Fiscal Year 2021”
- Rates are programmed in reporting system
Other Items

GASB reports

• Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) reports for June 30, 2020 financial statements are completed

• Located on DRB website –

• [http://doa.alaska.gov/drb/employer/resources/gasb.html](http://doa.alaska.gov/drb/employer/resources/gasb.html)

• Necessary for your annual fiscal year end audits
Thank you

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