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**From:** Department of Administration <DOA@announcements.mt.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 25, 2023 10:11 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Misleading Emails and Text Messages

## TRS BULLETIN

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### Emails from third-party organizations

At least one Montana TRS employer (a community college) has reported that some employees received an unsolicited email from an out-of-state organization offering assistance with their "TRS/PERS" retirement.

Please notify your employees that outside organizations are **not** affiliated with Montana's public pensions in any way. While it is possible they are qualified to offer general financial planning advice to their customers, they do not have access to TRS or PERS member data and cannot accurately calculate benefits or help members obtain those benefits.

Retiring TRS and PERS members who wish to apply for benefits **must** contact their retirement system directly.

### Text messages from unknown sources

Recently, a small number of TRS retirees reported receiving a text message that vaguely implied their TRS retirement is ending. The most important thing to know is that TRS does **not** communicate with members by text message. Further, TRS is a defined benefit pension plan, in which each retiree's benefit is guaranteed for life.

Members who receive such text messages should assume they are spam and delete them without responding to or engaging with the sender.

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If you are aware of any suspicious messages reaching your TRS employees, please let us know. Our main office numbers are (406) 444-3134 or (866) 600-4045, and staff are available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (except State holidays).

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Stay Connected with:  
Montana Teachers' Retirement System  
P.O. Box 200139  
Helena, MT 59620  
(406) 444-3134 | [trs.mt.gov](http://trs.mt.gov)  
[trsoutreach@mt.gov](mailto:trsoutreach@mt.gov)



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