MAPERS

Michigan Association
of Public Employee
Retirement Systems

3300 Washtenaw Avenue, Suite 220
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-4200
Phone: (734) 677-2379
or 1-800-475-4200
Fax: (734) 677-2407
E-mail: info@mapers.org
Web site: www.mapers.org

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The Michigan Association of Public Employee Retirement Systems, MAPERS, was established to provide educational training and legislative updates to trustees of Public Employee Retirement Systems within the State of Michigan.

Applicable Federal and Michigan law mandates that fiduciaries of governmental pension retirement plans in the State of Michigan meet required fiduciary obligations. In the State of Michigan most municipal state, city and county retirement plans are administered by a Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees typically consists of elected government officials appointed by the governing political body and elected from member employee groups.

Public retirement systems are typically separate trust funds established for the sole purpose of providing retirement benefits to retirees and beneficiaries and providing disability benefits to employees disabled in the course of employment.

Members of public pension plans range from clerks at city hall to judges and legislators, police officers to road repair crews from the state highway department, firefighters and teachers. Any person who is employed in the public sector on a full time basis is a potential member of a public pension plan.

Trustees of public retirement systems are obligated to act consistent with prudent and fiduciary standards of conduct in the administration of their pension plans. Trustees are fiduciaries of the plans they serve and are accountable for their actions. Trustees are ultimately responsible for the day-to-day operation of the plan, including administrative policies, granting of the benefits, investment of the assets, and ensuring that the plans are funded as required by law.

The Michigan Association of Public Employee Retirement Systems is recognized as the principal educational, legislative forum for trustees, plan administrators, and other retirement and financial professionals in the State of Michigan.

MAPERS conducts two educational conferences each year. The conferences provide legislative updates on both the federal and state level. Each conference features recognized pension professionals and legislative keynote speakers. The Michigan Association of Public Employee Retirement Systems represents 128 public pension/retirement systems within the State of Michigan. The 128 public systems administer pension and retirement benefits to more than 250,000 retirees and 500,000 active employees. The 128 public pension plans are responsible for over 60 billion dollars in public pension retirement assets.

The Michigan Association of Public Employee Retirement Systems is committed to the preservation and integrity of the retirement plans and benefits of all public employees. MAPERS employs the service of a full-time professional lobbyist (Capitol Services, Inc.) to monitor legislation that may affect the 750,000 plus members and retirees of public pension plans in the State of Michigan. As a State organization, MAPERS is also an active member in the National Association of Public Employee Retirement Systems.

Membership is open to all public pension funds in the State of Michigan. Affiliate membership is open to all service organizations who represent the interest of active or retired members of a public pension fund, e.g. unions. Corporate membership is also available to professional organizations and persons doing business with a Public Retirement System in the State of Michigan. For more information, please contact the MAPERS office.

The Michigan Association of Public Employee Retirement Systems (MAPERS) principle purpose is the promotion of Michigan's public employee retirement systems and retiree health care plans through education of trustees, administrators, and other professionals.
As summarized by its motto "Tomorrow's Future Through Today's Education", MAPERS facilitates the discussion and mutual exchange of ideas on topics of retiree benefits administration and trust fund investment. The Michigan Association of Public Employees Retirement Systems is recognized as the principal educational, legislative forum for trustee plan administrators, and other retirement and financial professionals in the State of Michigan.

MAPERS, in conjunction with Grand Valley State University, invites you to participate in its ***MAPERS Achievement Program***

MAP is designed to provide formal education in the areas of :

- *Fiduciary Responsibility*
- *Institutional Investing*
- *Benefits Administration*

MAPERS conducts educational conferences each year. Each conference features recognized professionals and keynote speakers. At MAPERS conferences, MAP participants will attend instructional seminars and workshops focused on topics essential to fulfilling fiduciary responsibilities. MAP sessions will be conducted by a team of expert actuarial, legal, and financial professionals. MAP participants will become well equipped to act with care, skill, prudence, and diligence. For trustees, administrators, and other professionals, carrying a MAP designation is not only prudent, but critical to the future success of your plans.

MAP CERTIFICATION BENEFITS

- Diverse and Quality Education
- Personal and Professional Development
- Grand Valley State University Certificate of Achievement
- Public Recognition

MAP CURRICULUM

The MAP curriculum is structured to provide a broad based educational foundation. The MAP curriculum is divided into three (3) categories:

CATEGORY I - PENSION FUNDAMENTALS SERIES
An ongoing series of sessions which address the basics of plan administration. One session is held each MAPERS conference. The series is designed as follows:

- Series 1. - Fiduciary Fundamentals
- Series 2. - Investment of Plan Assets
- Series 3. - Benefit Administration
- Series 4. - Law
- Series 5. - Tax
- Series 6. - Retirement System Management

CATEGORY II - INSTITUTIONAL INVESTMENT
These sessions will focus on topics related to the investment of public plan assets, including investment policies and objectives, asset allocation, risk management, market conditions, etc.

CATEGORY III - BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION
These sessions will focus on topics related to the proper administration, management and operation of public plans, including plan design, actuarial principles, plan compliance and governance issues, etc.

The categories are structured to ensure that members receive a well balanced education. A diverse range of topics will be presented within these categories every MAPERS conference which will be specifically tailored to meet the evolving needs of the MAPERS membership. Members will be advised in the conference materials as to the session topics and category classification.

MAP CERTIFICATE DESIGNATIONS

Basic Fiduciary Designation (Red Badge)
The Basic Fiduciary course of study provides members with a general understanding of issues pertaining to the proper administration, management and operation of public plans. To obtain the Basic Fiduciary Designation the member must have a minimum of 2 years of public plan experience and complete 20 hours of course instruction. This designation of course instruction must include a minimum of 9 hours of Category I Instruction (Pension Fundamental Series). Upon satisfaction of the course and experience requirements, members will be required to successfully complete an examination to be conducted at MAPERS conferences. At any time, a member may satisfy the Basic Fiduciary course requirements by successfully completing the Basic Fiduciary examination.

Intermediate Fiduciary Designation (White Badge)
The Intermediate Fiduciary Designation recognizes a higher degree of knowledge and exposure to essential plan topics. To obtain the Intermediate Fiduciary Designation the member must have a minimum of 3 years of public plan experience, hold a Basic Fiduciary Designation, and complete 20 hours of additional course instruction. This designation must include a minimum of 6 hours in both Category II and Category III instruction. Upon satisfaction of the course and experience requirements, members will be required to successfully complete the Intermediate Fiduciary examination to be conducted at MAPERS conferences.

Advanced Fiduciary Designation