

WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

KEN HECHLER

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

Form #2

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May 18

2 34 PM '99

OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

NOTICE OF A COMMENT PERIOD ON A PROPOSED RULE

AGENCY: WV Consolidated Public Retirement Board TITLE NUMBER: 162

RULE TYPE: Legislative; CITE AUTHORITY WV-5-10D-1

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES ☒ NO ☐

IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: Series 3

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: 162-3-5.1 (Administration of
Annuity Accounts; 162-3-3.4 (Definitions); 162-3-7 (Distributions
of Benefits)

IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF NEW RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

IN LIEU OF A PUBLIC HEARING, A COMMENT PERIOD HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED DURING WHICH
ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY SEND COMMENTS CONCERNING THESE PROPOSED RULES. THIS
COMMENT PERIOD WILL END ON June 28, 1999 AT 5:00 P. M.
ONLY WRITTEN COMMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AND ARE TO BE MAILED TO THE FOLLOWING
ADDRESS.

Betty S. Ireland, Executive Secretary
WV Consolidated Public Retirement Board
Bldg. 5, Rm. 1000, Capitol Complex
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25305

THE ISSUES TO BE HEARD SHALL BE
LIMITED TO THIS PROPOSED RULE.


Authorized Signature

ATTACH A **BRIEF** SUMMARY OF YOUR PROPOSAL

\$3.80

State of West Virginia
Consolidated Public Retirement Board

Capitol Complex, Building 5, Room 1000, Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0720
Telephone: 304-558-3570 or 800-654-4406 (within WV) Fax: 304-558-6337

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO TITLE 162, SERIES 3

The West Virginia Consolidated Public Retirement Board ("Board"), as administrator of the West Virginia Teachers Defined Contribution Plan ("DC Plan"), proposes two amendatory changes to Title 162, Series 3, of the WV Code of State Regulations. First, the Board proposes an amendment of WVCSR §162-3-5.1 in order to provide that, if a member of the DC Plan elects more than one investment option, the member's and employer's contributions may be allocated to the member's investment options in 5% increments rather than in 20% increments as provided for in the current version of the rule.

Secondly, the Board proposes an amendatory change to WVCSR §162-3-7 in order to provide that, if a member's vested accrued benefit in his/her annuity account at the termination of the member's employment does not exceed \$5000.00, the entire amount of the accrued benefit shall be distributed to the member in the form of a cash-out within the time specified in the rule.

**STATEMENT OF CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING PROPOSAL AND
PROMULGATION OF PROPOSED RULE CHANGES TO WVCSR § 162-3-3.4,
WVCSR § 162-3-5.1 AND WVCSR § 162-3-7**

In the West Virginia Teachers Defined Contribution Plan ("DC Plan"), a member may elect one or more investment options, to which the member's and his/her employer's contributions are allocated for investment purposes. Under the current version of §162-3-5.1, when a member has elected more than one investment option, the member's and the employer's contributions may be allocated to each investment option only in 20% increments. the proposed amendment to this rule would allow allocations to the member's selected investment options in 5% increments in order to allow the member more flexibility in making investment choices.

Additionally, under the current Series 3 rules pertaining to the DC Plan, a member who terminated his/her covered employment with vested accrued benefits of \$3,500 or less will receive a cash-out of the entire amount of his/her vested accrued benefits within 30 days following the end of the calendar quarter following the termination. The proposed amendments to Rules § 162-3-3.4 and § 162-3-7 would increase the \$3,500 cap stated in the current version of the rule to \$5,000. This increase in the level for involuntary cash-out is an option offered by the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, and the Board proposes this amendment to WVCSR 162-3-5.1 and WVCSR 162-3-7 in order to comply with federal statute.

APPENDIX B

FISCAL NOTE FOR PROPOSED RULES

Rule Title:	162-3 (Administration of Annuity Accounts); 162-3-3.4 (Definitions); and 162-3-7 (Distribution of Benefits)
Type of Rule:	Legislative
Agency:	WV Consolidated Public Retirement Board
Address:	Building 5, Room 1000
	1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
	Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0720

1. Effect of Proposed Rule:

	ANNUAL		FISCAL YEAR		
	INCREASE	DECREASE	CURRENT	NEXT	THEREAFTER
ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	\$ NIL	\$	\$	\$ NIL	\$ NIL
PERSONAL SERVICES					
CURRENT EXPENSE					
REPAIR & ALTERATIONS					
EQUIPMENT					
OTHER					

2. Explanation of above estimates: The overall economic result of the proposed changes will be a slight decrease in the cost of maintaining the individual accounts of participants in the Teachers Defined Contribution Plan.

3. Objectives of these rules: The changes to § 162-3-5.1 will make the plan a more flexible tool for participants in investing for their retirement. The changes to § 162-3-3.4 and § 162-3-7 will permit the state to avoid the expense of maintaining accounts with small nominal holding for individuals who leave state employment.

Rule Title: 162-3 (Administration of Annuity Accounts); 162-3-3.4 (Definitions); and
162-3-7 (Distribution of Benefits)

4. Explanation of Overall Economic Impact of Proposed Rule:

- A. Economic Impact on State Government:
Impact is not material.
- B. Economics Impact on Political Subdivision; Specific Industries; Specific groups of
Citizens:
Impact is not material.
- C. Economic Impact on Citizens/Public at Large:
Impact is not material.

Date: _____

5/13/99

Signature of Agency Head or Authorized Representative: _____

Detha A. Felton

TITLE 162
LEGISLATIVE RULES
CONSOLIDATED PUBLIC RETIREMENT BOARD

SERIES 3
TEACHERS' DEFINED CONTRIBUTION SYSTEM

FILED
May 18 2 34 PM '99

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
SECRETARY OF STATE

§162-3-1. General.

1.1. Scope. — The scope of this Rule is the interpretation, administration and application of the Teachers' Defined Contribution System by the Board.

1.2. Authority. — W. Va. §5-10D-1.

1.3. Filing Date. — August 4, 1993.

1.4. Effective Date. — August 4, 1993.

§162-3-2. Purpose.

2.1. General. The purpose of the Teachers' Defined Contribution System is to provide a defined contribution retirement program which is fully funded on a current basis from employer and member contributions.

2.2. Exclusive benefit. The System has been created for the exclusive benefit of the members and their beneficiaries subject to the limitations in W. Va. Code §18-7B-11 with respect to forfeiture. The Board shall interpret the system in a manner consistent with this intent and with the intention that the System satisfy the applicable provisions of Section 401 and Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, with respect to governmental plans.

§162-3-3. Definitions.

3.1. For the purposes of the Teachers' Defined Contribution System, the following definitions apply, unless the context clearly requires a different meaning:

3.3.1. "Accrued benefit" is the amount credited to the member's annuity account.

3.3.2. "Annuity account" means a two-part account established for each individual member to

record the deposit of: (1) member contributions and interest, dividends or other accumulations credited thereon to the account on behalf of the member (the "member account"); and (2) employer contributions and interest, dividends or other accumulations credited thereon to the account on behalf of the member (the "employer account").

3.3.3. "Beneficiary" means any person, estate or trust who by operation of law, or under the terms of the System, or otherwise, is entitled to receive any accrued benefit of a member under the System. A "designated beneficiary" means any individual designated or determined in accordance with this Rule, except that it shall not include any person who becomes a beneficiary by virtue of the law of inheritance or intestate succession.

3.3.4. "Cash-out" may be voluntary or involuntary. An involuntary cash-out is a distribution of an accrued benefit to a former member which meets the following requirements: (1) the former member's entire non-forfeitable accrued benefit is distributed to him or her, (2) the present value of the non-forfeitable accrued benefit of the member does not exceed ~~\$3,500~~ \$5,000 and (3) the distribution is made on account of the employee's termination of participation in the System and is made no later than thirty (30) days after the end of the calendar quarter following the termination. Where the present value of the non-forfeitable accrued benefit of a former member is in excess of ~~\$3,500~~ \$5,000, or ever exceeded ~~\$3,500~~ \$5,000 the Board shall not make an immediate distribution from the Teachers' Defined Contribution System without the consent of the member and, when applicable, the member's spouse. A voluntary cash-out is a distribution of accrued benefit to a former member which meets the following requirements: (1) the former member has voluntarily elected to receive the distribution and (2) the distribution is made on account of the employee's termination of participation in the System and is made no later than thirty (30) days after the end of

the calendar quarter following such termination.

3.3.5. "Code" means the West Virginia Code of 1931, as amended.

3.3.6. "Compensation" refers to all compensation paid during the plan year as wages, salary or commissions by a participating employer to a member including overtime payments and amounts contributed to any welfare benefit plans maintained by the employer or by the State through a reduction in the member's compensation which pursuant to Internal Revenue Code §125 are not included in the gross income of the member for the year in which the amounts are contributed. However, compensation does not include the value of accrued but unused sick leave or vacation leave. Compensation also does not include all contributions by the employer to the plan and to any other retirement or deferred compensation plan maintained by the employer or amounts in excess of \$200,000 for the plan year or such other amount as may be prescribed by law. In determining the compensation of a member for purposes of the \$200,000 limitation, the rules of the Internal Revenue Code §414(g)(6) apply, except that in applying the rules, the term "family" includes only the spouse of the member and any lineal descendants of the member who have not attained age nineteen (19) before the close of the plan year. If the \$200,000 compensation limitation, as adjusted, applies to the combined compensation of the member and one or more family members, the Board will apply the contribution and allocation provisions of Section 7 of this Rule by prorating the \$200,000 limitation, as adjusted, among the member or his or her family members in proportion that the individual's compensation determined prior to the application of this limitation bears to the total compensation of all individuals determined prior to the application of this limitation.

3.3.7. "Consolidated Board" or "Board" means the West Virginia Consolidated Public Retirement Board created and established pursuant to W. Va. Code §5-10D-1 et seq.

3.3.8. "Employer" means the public agency of and within the state which employed or employs a member of the Teachers' Defined Contribution System.

3.3.9. "Employer contribution" means an amount deposited into the member's annuity account on a periodic basis coinciding with the member's regular pay period by or on behalf of an employer from its own funds.

3.3.10. "Existing employer" means any employer who employed or employs a member of the Teachers' Defined benefit Retirement System.

3.3.11. "Forfeiture" means the employer contributions and investment income thereon held in the suspension account created pursuant to W. Va. Code §18-7B-11 that have been irrevocably forfeited by reason of lapse of time.

3.3.12. "I.R.C." refers to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

3.3.13. "Leave of absence" refers to that period during which the member is absent from his or her employment without compensation and for which the Board has determined the member to be on a "leave of absence" instead of having separated from his or her employment.

3.3.14. "Member" or "employee" means the following persons, if regularly employed for full-time service: (1) any person employed for instructional services in the public schools of West Virginia; (2) principals; (3) public school librarians; (4) superintendents of schools and assistant county superintendents of schools; (5) any county school attendance director holding a West Virginia teacher's certificate; (6) the executive secretary of the retirement board; (7) members of the research, extension, administrative or library staffs of the public schools; (8) the state superintendent of schools, heads and assistant heads of the divisions under his supervision, or any other employee thereunder performing services of an educational nature; (9) employees of the state board of education who are performing services of an educational nature; (10) any person employed in a non-teaching capacity by the state board of education, any county board of education, the state department of education or the teachers retirement board, if such person was formerly employed as a teacher in the public schools; (11) all classroom teachers, principals and educational administrator in schools under the supervision of the department of corrections, the department of health and human services; (12)

any person who is regularly employed for full-time service by any county board of education, the state board of education of the teachers retirement board; and (13) the administrative staff of the public schools including deans of instruction, deans of men and deans of women and financial and administrative secretaries.

3.3.15. "Member contributions" means an amount reduced from the employee's regular pay, and deposited into the member's individual annuity account within the Teachers' Defined Contribution Retirement System.

3.3.16. "Permanent and total disability" means a mental or physical incapacity requiring the absence from employment service for at least six (6) months. Provided, that such incapacity is shown by a physician or physicians selected by the Board in accordance with this Rule.

3.3.17. "Plan year" means the period commencing on the first day of July and ending on the thirtieth day of June, the following year.

3.3.18. "Public schools" means all publicly supported schools, including normal schools, colleges and universities in the State.

3.3.19. "Regularly employed for full-time service" means employment in a regular position or job throughout the employment term regardless of the numbers of hours worked or the method of pay.

3.3.20. "Retirement" means a member's withdrawal from the active employment of a participating employer and completion of all conditions precedent to retirement.

3.3.21. "Retirement age" means at least fifty-five (55) years of age for the member.

3.3.22. "State" means the State of West Virginia, its political subdivisions and state agencies.

3.3.23. "Termination date" means the date on which the earliest of the following events occurs: (1) a member's retirement, (2) a member's termination of employment as a result of permanent total disability, (3) a member's death or (4) a member's termination of employment for any other

reason.

3.3.24. "Trust" means the trust created by State law pursuant to W. Va. Code §18-7B-1 et seq.

3.3.25. "Trust fund" consists of the employer and member contributions held by the System and invested in various investment options and any income or appreciation thereon.

3.3.26. "Year of employment service" means employment for at least ten (10) months, a month defined as twenty (20) employment days. Provided, that no more than one year of service may be accumulated during any one plan year.

§162-3-4. Contributions to the Trust.

4.1. Member contributions. Each employee who is a member of the Teachers' Defined Contribution System shall contribute four and one-half percent (4 1/2%) of his or her gross compensation. Member contributions shall be picked up by each participating employer pursuant to W. Va. Code §5-10C-1 et seq. The Teachers' Defined Contribution Retirement System is subject to U. S. Internal Revenue Code §414(h)(2) [25 U.S.C. §414(h)(2)].

4.2. Employer contributions. Each participating employer shall annually make a contribution equal to seven and one-half percent (7 1/2%) of each member's gross compensation. A pro-rata share of the employer contributions shall be paid upon each date that a member contribution is made. The employer contribution shall be immediately credited to the annuity account established in the name of the member and held in trust for the benefit of the member. Each participating employer has a fiduciary duty to its employees to insure that the employer contributions are timely made to the Board. In the event that any employer contribution is not timely made, it is a State debt, contracted as a deficit in State revenues, to be accorded preferred status over other expenditures.

§16-3-5. Administration of Annuity Accounts.

5.1. Investments. The amounts allocated to the employer account and member account of each member's annuity account shall be invested by the Board in one or more investment options elected by

the member. Each member may elect, in writing, at least fifteen (15) days before the beginning of each calendar quarter, to have the balance accumulated in his or her annuity account invested by the Board in one or more investment options made available by the Board. The investment options may include: (1) a money market fund; (2) a bond fund; (3) a stock fund, and (4) other investment options offered by the Board. If the member elects more than one investment option, the member's and employer's contributions shall be allocated to each investment option in increments of ~~twenty percent (20%)~~ five percent (5%) of the total contribution.

5.2. Investment in a single fund. The Board may cause all contributions paid to it by the employer and member, and any income earned thereon, without distinction between principal and income, to be held and administered in a single fund. The Board may adopt reasonable rules for the administration of such common fund and for the determination of the proportionate interest of each member in the fund.

5.3. Evaluation of assets and allocation of changes. The Board shall evaluate the assets of each investment fund at the close of the last day of each calendar quarter of the plan year at their fair market value. The Board shall adjust the member account and employer account, including any employer account held in suspense, of each member's annuity account, for any net appreciation or net depreciation in the assets of the fund and any net income or net loss of each fund for the calendar quarter, with each individual annuity account of each member participating in the investment funds being credited or charged in a proportionate ratio with each other annuity account with the earnings or losses of the investment funds.

5.4. Limitations on allocations to each member. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the Teachers' Defined Contribution Retirement System, the maximum annual addition for any plan year which can be made to an annuity account of an individual member is the lesser of \$30,000 (or, if greater, one-fourth (1/4) of the defined benefit dollar limitation set forth in the U. S. Internal Revenue Code §415(b)(1) as in effect for the plan year) or twenty-five percent (25%) of the member's compensation. In no event shall the annual additions to any member's annuity account exceed the

lesser of the preceding limitation. The annual addition for a plan year which is the limitation year for the purpose of U. S. Internal Revenue Code §415, under this and any other defined contribution type plans maintained by the State or the employer is the sum of the following:

5.4.1. Employer contributions;

5.4.2. Forfeitures (if applicable); and

5.4.3. Member contributions.

5.5. Designation of beneficiary. Each member may designate from time to time in writing one or more beneficiaries, who will receive the member's vested accrued benefit in the event of the member's death. If the member dies without having made a beneficiary designation, the Board shall distribute the benefits in accordance with this Rule.

§162-3-6. Vesting.

6.1. Member contributions one-hundred percent (100%) vested. The accrued benefit in a member's annuity account comprised of member contributions and rollover contributions and earnings thereon of a member is one hundred percent (100%) at all times.

6.2. Vesting employer contributions on death or permanent and total disability. If a member's employment with a participating employer is terminated on account of death or for permanent and total disability, one hundred percent (100%) of the employer contributions, with earnings thereon, in the member's annuity account, is non-forfeitable and immediately vests in the member, or his or her beneficiary as the case may be, and the Board shall distribute or set aside in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of this Rule.

6.3. Employer account vesting on termination. If a member's employment is terminated, except for death or permanent and total disability, the following percentages of the member's accrued benefit in the employer account of the member's annuity account vest in the member and the Board shall distribute to or set aside the money for the member in accordance with Section 10 of this Rule.

Total Year of Employment Service for Vesting	VESTED PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS AND EARNINGS THEREON
At least 6 completed years, but less than 9	33 1/3%
At least 9 complete years, but less than 12	66 2/3%
At least 12 complete years	100%

The accrued benefit of a terminated member which is not vested as above provided in this subsection shall be retained by the Board in a suspension account in accordance with W. Va. Code §18-7B-11

6.4. Partial vesting. A member who has less than two hundred (200) employment days during a plan year is entitled to partial vesting credit for purposes of computing year of employment service based upon the actual number of employment days worked during the plan year. For example, if a member was a regular employee of a participating employer, but only had one hundred employment days during the plan year, that individual would be given one half (1/2) year of employment service ($100/200 = 1/2$).

6.5. Leave of absence. The Board shall consider as an approved leave of absence any leave approved by each participating employer, pursuant to a written policy of the employer, provided that the employer provides the Board on an annual basis, or a more frequent basis if directed by the Board, a list of all members who are currently on an approved leave of absence.

6.6. Reemployment with participating employer. A member of the Teachers' Defined Contribution System who terminates employment with a participating employer and does not withdraw any funds from his or her annuity account and becomes reemployed with a participating employer within five (5) years from the date of terminations retains his or her previous years of employment service for purposes of vesting.

6.7. Workers' compensation. Members who are receiving workers' compensation benefits and who are not actively employed and not contributing to the Teachers' Defined Contribution System shall not receive any vesting credit until such time as

they return to active employment and commence contributing to the System. The Board will consider a member receiving workers' compensation as being on approved leave of absence therefore allowing reentry.

§162-3-7. Distribution of benefits.

7.1. Method of distribution of vested member annuity account. The member shall elect in writing to receive a distribution of vested portion of his or her annuity account in one of the following forms, to the extent not inconsistent with the applicable provisions of the I.R.C., (1) a lump-sum distribution, (2) a joint and survivor annuity, (3) an increasing annuity which provides for the gradual increase in monthly retirement payments funded solely by the existing current blue of the member's annuity account at the time that the member's retirement payments commence, (4) a cash-out, and (5) other annuity forms approved by the Board. However, if a member's vested accrued benefit in his or her annuity account at the time the member terminates employment (on account of severance, death or permanent and total disability) does not exceed ~~\$3,500~~ \$5,000, the entire amount of the accrued benefit shall be distributed in the form of a cash-out within thirty (30) days following the end of the calendar quarter after the termination of employment.

7.2. Time of distribution.

7.2.1. After the member has attained retirement age, he or she may elect to take retirement by notifying the Board or its designee in writing, on a form approved by the Board, of such intention not less than sixty (60) days prior to the effective date of retirement. If these requirements are met, retirement payments shall commence within thirty (30) days of the retirement date under the retirement payment option or options provided by the Board and elected by the member.

7.2.2. If the member dies, terminates his or her employment with a participating employer, or has been certified to be permanently and totally disabled, in accordance with the provisions of the System, then the Board shall make the first installment, the lump-sum payment or cash-out, as the case may be, no more than thirty (30) days following the end of the calendar quarter after the mem-

ber or the beneficiary, as the case may be, files a written election, on a form approved by the Board, of the intention to receive a distribution of benefits.

7.2.3. Distribution shall commence no later than April 1 of the calendar year following the calendar year in which the member attains the age of seventy and one-half (70 1/2).

7.2.4. If distributions are made in installments rather than a lump sum distribution or a cash-out, then (1) the installments must be over a period of ten (10) years or less or (2) the amount of the installment to be distributed each year must be at least an amount equal to the quotient obtained by dividing the member's entire interest by the life expectancy of the member or the joint and last survivor expectancy of the member and his or her designated beneficiary. For purposes of the computation, the Board may recalculate a member's life expectancy no more frequently than annually, but the life expectancy of a non-spouse beneficiary may not be recalculated. If the member's spouse is not the designated beneficiary, the method of distribution selected must assure that at least fifty percent (50%) of the present value of the amount available for distribution is paid with the life expectancy of the member.

7.2.5. If the member dies after distributions to him or her have begun but before his or her entire accrued benefit has been distributed to him or her, the Board shall distribute the remaining portion of his or her accrued benefit from the Teachers' Defined Contribution Retirement System at least as rapidly as under the method of distribution previously established for him or her, if such method is irrevocable at the time of his or her death.

7.2.6. If the member dies before full distribution of his or her interest commences, then distributions of the member's remaining accrued benefit must be completed by the end of the fifth (5th) calendar year following the year of his or her death. However, installment distributions to a designated beneficiary which begin not later the end of the calendar year following the death of the member comply with this five (5) year distribution requirement (even though the installment payments are not completed with five (5) year of the member's death) if the distributions are made at a rate

which is not longer than that calculated (in the manner described in subdivision (d) of this Section) to provide payment of all member's accrued benefit during the anticipated life expectancy of the designated beneficiary. Provided that if the designated beneficiary is the surviving spouse of the deceased member, the distributions can begin as long after the member's death as the date on which the deceased member would have attained the age of seventy and one-half (70 1/2). If the surviving spouse dies before distributions to the surviving spouse have begun, the Teachers' Defined Contribution Retirement System may make distributions to the beneficiary at such times as described in this Section as it would have if the surviving spouse had been a deceased member.

7.2.7. For purposes of this Section, any amount paid to a child of a member will be treated as if it had been paid to the surviving spouse of the member if such remaining amount becomes payable to the surviving spouse when the child reaches the age of majority.

7.3. Segregation of installment distribution. The Board may determine that the employer and member accounts of a member who is no longer an employee shall be segregated and set aside, in which event the Board shall segregate the vested portion (as defined in Section 6 of this Rule) of the entire balance of the member's employer account and member account, if applicable, and deposit the portion in a separate interest bearing account, and the account shall cease to participate in the income or net loss or appreciation or depreciation of the trust fund, as of the beginning of the subsequent calendar year for the plan year in which the segregation occurs, and instead will be credited with the full amount of interest earned thereon.

7.4. Non-segregation of installment distribution. In the event the Board does not segregate the employer account and the member account, of a member, (as provided in subsection of this Rule), the account shall continue to be treated, without interruption, in the same manner as when the member was an employee, in which case the installment distributions shall be adjusted upward or downward to reflect appreciation or depreciation, or income or loss in the account balance.

7.5. Distribution after death of participant. In

the event of the death of a member after installment payments have begun, but prior to completion of the payments, the Board shall continue to pay the full amount of the unpaid benefits in the form of the previously established installments except that the beneficiary may request that the remaining accrued benefit be paid in a lump sum. In the event of the death of the member prior to the start of any payments of his or her accrued benefit, distributions shall be made in the form and at the time or times selected by the beneficiary pursuant to subsections 7.1 and 7.2 of this Rule.

7.6. Distribution after death of beneficiary. In the event of the death of a beneficiary (or a contingent beneficiary, if applicable) prior to the completion of payments of benefits due the beneficiary from the plan, the full amount of the unpaid benefits shall immediately vest in and become the property of the estate of the beneficiary.

7.7. Suspense account for terminated members. If a member has terminated his or her employment but his or her employer account is not one hundred percent (100%) vested, all funds in his or her employer account shall be held in suspense until the happening of the earliest of the following: (1) the member returning to employment with the employer, or (2) the occurrence of five (5) consecutive one year breaks in service with respect to the member, or (3) the member attaining retirement age. At such time the member's employer account shall cease to be held in suspense. If a member has returned to employment with a participating employer prior to incurring five (5) consecutive one year breaks in service, his or her employer account which has been held in suspense shall be restored to his or her credit, less any cash-out which is not repaid in accordance with Section 7 of this Rule. If five (5) consecutive one year breaks in service occur, the non-vested portion of the employer account held in suspense will be irrevocably forfeited and reallocated in accordance with W. Va. Code §18-7B-11 for the plan year in which the forfeiture occurs; the Board shall distribute the vested portion in accordance with the provisions of Section 7 of the Rule. In the case of a member attaining retirement age while his or her employer account is being held in suspense, the Board will distribute the entire amount in accordance with the provisions of Section 7 of this Rule. The account shall share in any appreciation, depreciation or net

income or loss as if it were not in suspense, except than an account which is in suspense shall no forfeitures allocated to it for a plan year in which the employee does not have a year of service for accrual of benefits.

7.8. Unable to locate member or beneficiary. If the Board is unable to locate the member or beneficiary to whom benefits are to be distributed and reasonable efforts have been made to find him or her, including sending notification by certified or registered mail to his or her last known address: (1) the Board may distribute the benefits in question to an interest bearing savings account established in the name of the member or beneficiary; or (2) if the benefits are payable to a member (as reasonably determined by the Board) the Board may distribute the funds to the member by placing them in a savings account in the member's name. Alternatively, if the Board has taken the reasonable efforts, as described in this Section, to locate the member, the Board may allocate the member's accrued benefits to a segregated account in the manner described in this Section, as if an installment distribution were being made; however, the funds shall be held in the segregated account for distribution to the member when located.

7.9. Repayment of cash-out. If a member receives a cash-out distribution from the plan as a result of ceasing to be an employee, and is less than one hundred percent (100%) vested as to his or her accrued benefit as such time, he or she has the right to repay to the plan the cash-out distribution he or she has received from it.

§162-3-8. Termination.

8.1. One hundred percent (100%) vesting on termination of plan. Upon termination or partial termination of the Teachers' Defined Contribution Retirement System and Trust by formal action of the State or for any other reason, or if employer contributions are permanently discontinued for any reason, there shall be vested one hundred percent (100%) in each member directly affected by such action the amount allocated to the annuity account of each member, and the Board shall make payment to the member in cash as soon as practicable after liquidation of the assets of the trust.

8.2. Plan merger or consolidation. In the case

of any merger or consolidation with, or transfer of any assets or liability to, any other plan, each member in this plan is entitled to receive (if the surviving plan is then terminated) a benefit immediately after the merger, consolidation or transfer which is equal to or greater than the benefit he or she would have been entitled to receive immediately before the merger, consolidation or transfer (if this plan had terminated).

§162-3-9. Miscellaneous.

9.1. Laws of the State of West Virginia to apply. This plan shall be construed according to the laws of the State of West Virginia to extent federal laws do not control.

9.2. Filing tax returns and reports. The Board, or its duly appointed designee, shall prepare, or cause to be prepared, all tax returns, reports and related documents, except as otherwise specifically provided.