



October 7, 2011 - ACSA Statement Regarding TRSL

In these uncertain economic times it is important for us to maintain employee stability by providing viable employment opportunities to our staff and the families that depend on them. We recently ended our participation with the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) in order to keep our staff members in the Type 5 charters employed. This decision does not impact the Type 4 charters of Alice Harte and Edna Karr, since these are chartered to Orleans Parish School Board, which will continue to participate in TRSL.

With our Teacher Incentive Fund grant ending at the close of this school year and an accelerated increase in the employers' unfunded liability portion of TRSL, ACSA will be faced with a serious capital deficit. If we chose to remain in TRSL and pay the higher unfunded liability, it will result in a massive layoff that would decrease the number of educators and staff currently in our schools.

Although it was a difficult decision, we felt that maintaining the jobs of all of our educators would best serve the needs of our employees during this difficult economy. Therefore, instead of terminating more than 120 educators, we have an opportunity to revisit the pay scale of our staff in Type 5 schools to be more competitive with schools in the New Orleans area and surrounding parishes. In addition, ACSA is creating a 403B program for those teachers and staff members who wish to participate in this retirement option.

In an effort to address any questions or concerns by our staff, the ACSA administration visited each affected school. Teachers and staff members engaged the administration in an effort to determine the best options available for their particular circumstance. We are currently planning more sessions with our teachers so that they understand all of their options in full detail.

Our decision to remove our Type 5 charters from TRSL is essential to maintaining our current educational programs and staffing composition to continue our academic progress while ensuring the ongoing financial viability of each school and the organization.