

MAIN OFFICE

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ONLINE

mass.gov/mtrs



Instructions and application for purchasing

Out-of-state public school teaching service in the United States or Puerto Rico

INSTRUCTIONS

If you have rendered prior service as a teacher or administrator in an out-of-state public school or university in the United States or Puerto Rico, you may be eligible to purchase up to ten years of your prior service (no more than five years in Puerto Rico). Please **read** these instructions **carefully** before completing the application.

Step 1: Determine your eligibility

1) Were you employed as a teacher or administrator in an out-of-state public school, public university, or other public day school under exclusive public control, on at least a half-time basis?	□No
2) Was the school in the United States or Puerto Rico?	□No
3) a) During your out-of-state service, did your employment contract require you to have the certification, licensure or other qualifications of a teacher in that school in that state?	□No
b) Did you have such certification, licensure or other qualifications? □ Yes If "yes," please go to Question 4. If "no," your service is not eligible for purchase.	□No
4) Based on your out-of-state service	
a) Have you already received a retirement benefit, pension, or other similar payment from the out-of-state retirement system or any other source (excluding Social Security)?	□No
b) Are you—or will you be—eligible to receive a retirement benefit, pension, or other similar payment from the out-of-state retirement system or any other source (excluding Social Security)?	□No
c) In order to purchase your out-of-state service, you must not be eligible for a benefit from your former retirement system. Accordingly, in order to purchase this service, and if your out-of-state retirement system allows, do you plan to divest from that system (withdraw or roll over any non-employer-contributed funds to the MTRS to pay for this purchase)?	□No
If "yes," you may be eligible to purchase this service; go to Step 2. If "no," your service is not eligible for purchase.	

Form OOS-12012016

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Step 2: Review these Q&A to understand the restrictions and application process

Are there any requirements or restrictions I should know about?

Yes—if eligible, you may purchase a maximum of ten years of credit for your most recent out-of-state school service (out-of-state service means any service rendered outside of Massachusetts—including nonpublic school service prior to 1973 and overseas United States Department of Defense teaching service), subject to the following restrictions:

- In order to be eligible to apply to purchase out-of-state service, you must be a member-in-service of the MTRS.
- A total of no more than five of the ten years may be for public school service rendered in Puerto Rico or in an overseas dependent school supervised by the United States Department of Defense.
- You cannot purchase more than a total of ten years of creditable service for all of your out-of-state service combined.
- You must document and purchase your most recent service first. For example, if you began your public school teaching career in Vermont, and then taught in New Hampshire, and later joined a Massachusetts school district, you must purchase your eligible New Hampshire teaching service before you purchase your eligible Vermont teaching service.
- At the time of your retirement, you must have a matching year of Massachusetts membership service as a teacher in the MTRS, Massachusetts State Retirement System or Boston Retirement System. For example, if you wish to purchase three years of out-of-state public school service, three years of Department of Defense service, and four years of Massachusetts nonpublic teaching service, you must have at least ten years of Massachusetts membership service as a teacher in the MTRS, Massachusetts State Retirement System or Boston Retirement System at the time of your retirement.
- Buying your out-of-state service does not allow you to use your out-of-state salary as part of your salary average for retirement benefit calculation purposes, nor does it allow you to change your contribution rate or membership start date.
- Credit may not be purchased for any out-of-state service that was already used in the calculation or payment of a retirement benefit, or that is used in the calculation of a retirement benefit currently being paid or payable in the future under any retirement program (excluding Social Security). In other words, you cannot have credit for the same service with more than one retirement system at one time. Likewise, if you purchase your out-of-state service now, and then later become eligible to receive a retirement benefit from another system based on the service you are purchasing now, you must notify the MTRS.

How can I determine if it makes financial sense for me to purchase all—or just a portion—of my out-of-state public school service?

Depending on how much creditable service you will have at the time of retirement, purchasing your out-of-state service credit may

or may not make financial sense for you. Please be aware that a retirement allowance can be no higher than 80 percent of your allowable final salary average, and a service purchase, once made, cannot be refunded. So, before you decide to purchase this service, or decide how much to purchase, please consider whether you expect to be at or near the 80 percent maximum at the time of your retirement *without* this purchase.

To compare your retirement benefits both *with* and *without* this service purchase, visit our website at mass.gov/mtrs and use our online estimator.

Step 3: Apply to purchase this service

If you have read and understand the Q&A in Step 2, and believe that you are eligible to apply to purchase credit for your out-ofstate public school service, please:

- 1) **Complete** ALL of Part 1 of the application form, and just Section 1 of Parts 2 and 3.
- 2) For completion of the remainder of:
 - a) Part 2: Contact the payroll or business office of each of your prior out-of-state public schools in that state and explain that, for purposes of applying to purchase your out-of-state service credit, you need documentation of your service and salary. Ask an official representative to complete Part 2 and then return it to you. Please note that, if, for any reason, your school official is unable to provide your salary data, we will return Part 2 to you with instructions to request your salary data from your former retirement system, as it may be in their records.
 - b) Part 3: Contact your former retirement system(s) and explain that, for purposes of applying to purchase your out-of-state service credit, you need documentation of your prior account, if any. Ask an official representative to complete Part 3 and then return it to you.
- 3) Make a copy of your completed application for your records.
- 4) Submit your completed original application pages to either our main or Western Regional office (addresses on form). Please note that your application will not be accepted unless ALL sections are complete; if any required sections are not complete, your form will be returned to you for completion.

After we receive your completed application, we will review it, determine your eligibility to purchase the service, and, if eligible, send you an invoice. Along with your invoice, you will receive information regarding how you may pay for your purchase.

Please note that the type of interest charged on your out-of-state service purchase will be actuarial interest, at the rate in effect at the time of your application. EXCEPTION: If you established membership in a Massachusetts public retirement system on or after April 2, 2012, and you had previously been a member of a Massachusetts public retirement system and taken a refund of your account, you will have one year from the date that you re-entered public service to apply and pay for your service purchase at the lower "buyback" rate, at the rate in effect at the time of your application. After your first year of re-entry to membership, you will be subject to actuarial interest.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS: From the time that you begin to gather your required documentation to the time that we send you an invoice, the service purchase process can take several months. If you are approaching retirement and you wish to purchase this service, you should be sure to complete and return your application at least six months before your date of retirement, so please plan ahead. As a reminder, service cannot be purchased after the effective date of your retirement.

Have questions or need assistance? Please don't hesitate to contact our main office at 617-679-6877. We're here to help!



Service credit purchase application

Out-of-state public school teaching service in the United States or Puerto Rico

Part 1 of 3: To be completed by applicant

INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANT

If you have rendered prior service as a teacher or administrator in an out-of-state public school or university in the United States or Puerto Rico, you may be eligible to purchase up to ten years (no more than five in Puerto Rico) of your prior service as creditable service toward your MTRS retirement. To apply to purchase your prior service, please:

- 1) **COMPLETE** ALL sections of Part 1, and just Section 1 of Parts 2 and 3.
- 2) For completion of the remainder of:
 - Part 2, CONTACT the payroll or business office of each of your prior out-of-state schools in that state, and ASK an official representative there to complete Part 2 and return the form to you.
 - Part 3, CONTACT your former retirement system(s), and ASK an official representative there to complete Part 3 and return the form to you.
- 3) **REVIEW** Parts 1, 2 and 3 to ensure that all have been **COMPLETED IN FULL** and signed.
- 4) MAKE a copy of your completed application for your records.
- 5) SUBMIT THE ORIGINAL PAGES OF ALL THREE PARTS of your completed application together, in the same envelope, to either our main or Western Regional office (addresses above). IF ANY PART IS NOT COMPLETE, OR IF ALL THREE PARTS ARE NOT SUBMITTED TO THE MTRS AT THE SAME TIME, YOUR APPLICATION WILL NOT BE PROCESSED UNTIL IT IS COMPLETE.

AP

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PPLICANT DATA	a) Social Security numberXXX-XX-XXXX	
	b) MTRS member number, if known	Not known
	c) Name	
	d) Former/maiden name, if applicable	Not applicable
	e) Mailing address Number and street	
	City	State ZIP
	f) Phone number	Home Cell Work
	g) E-mail	
	h) Are you currently employed by a Massachusetts school district?	No Yes. If "yes":
	Name of current employer	
	Current MTRS employment status . Check one	Active On an authorized leave of absence for not more than one year
	For our processing purposes, please answer th Are you also applying to purchase other servi	
	When do you plan to retire?	☐ 1-6 mos. ☐ 7-12 mos. ☐ 1-2 years ☐ 2+ years

	blic school teachi	nent System: Service credit purchase application Applicant's name application mg service in the United States or Puerto Rico MTRS member number						
PART 1, SE	ECTION 2							
YOUR PA OUT-OF-: PUBLIC S	ST STATE CHOOL	If you wish to purchase out-of-state public teaching service rendered in different states, you must submit a separate application for each state's service. Additionally, you must purchase your most recent eligible out-of-state service first. Please list ALL prior public school teaching service rendered in all other states or Puerto Rico—including						
TEACHIN SERVICE	G	service you have already purchas your service in chronological ord Period of service	ler, listing yo		ervice first.	Position title		
		From mm/yyyyy to mm/y		ool district)	noyer state	Tostion due		
PART 1, SE	ECTION 3							
THE OUT-OF-STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHING SERVICE YOU ARE APPLYING TO PURCHASE YOU MUST complete this section IN FULL.		Please use this form to apply to all f you wish to purchase additions form for each state. Name of state in which you service that you are applying. For EACH school district at which Note: We have provided space for two school districts in this state, SCHOOL DISTRICT #1 a) Name of out-of-state school of b) Address Number	rendered g to purchas h you rendered or two district please attach	e ed service, please ts (#1 and #2). I	e complete a thi f you were emp es of this page a	State or Puerto Rico rough d. loyed by more than and check here		
If your app is incomple cannot be	ete, it	City State ZIP c) Was any of your service rendered as a substitute? Yes No If "yes," indicate type and period Day-to-day substitute/on call; from/ to/ Long-term contract substitute/regular; from/ to/						
		d) Please provide your service de time employment (% FT). For						
Period of service From to mm/dd/yyyy mm/dd/yyyy		Position title (e.g., math teacher, vice principal, etc.)	Employme status (% FT)	ent Did this positi require a license or certification?	on If yes What kind?	Did you hold this license/certification during this period?		
			%	□ No □ Yes		□ No □ Yes		
			%	□ No □ Yes		□ No □ Yes		
			%	□ No □ Yes		□ No □ Yes		
			%	□ No □ Yes		□ No □ Yes		

	lic school teachin	nent System: Service credit purchase app ing service in the United States or Puerto R	Rico	Applicant's name RS member number					
PART 1, SEC		(continued)							
		SCHOOL DISTRICT #2							
THE OUT-			a) Name of out-of-state school district						
TEACHING	Ĵ	b) Address Number	and street						
SERVICE Y	OU		City		State	ZIP			
ARE APPLY	/ING	c) Was any of your service rendered as a	,	Yes No	State				
TO PURCH	HASE	If "yes," indicate type and period			titute/on call; from	_/ to/			
Continued			ļ	•	t substitute/regular; fron				
		d) Please provide your service deta employment (% FT). For examp							
From	of service to mm/dd/yyyy	Position title (e.g., math teacher, vice principal, etc.)	Employme status (% FT)	ent Did this position require a license or certification?	If yes What kind?	Did you hold this license/certification during this period?			
			%	□ No □ Yes		□ No □ Yes			
			%	□ No □ Yes		□ No □ Yes			
			%	□ No □ Yes		□ No □ Yes			
			%	☐ No ☐ Yes		□ No □ Yes			
PART 1, SEC	CTION 4					=			
YOUR OU	T-OF-	a) What are the names and types of the retirement plans that you and/or your employers paid into (other than Social Security) during this service [e.g., Defined Benefit, Defined Contribution, 403(b), OBRA]?							
STATE RET PLAN(S)	IKEWIEINI								
		b) Have you received, are you rece a retirement benefit based on th				Yes No			
		If "no," why not?							
		c) Do you have funds on account in the other retirement plan(s)? Yes No							
		If "yes," be advised that you ar you still have funds on account							
PART 1, SEC	CTION 5	service, will you be divesting fr				Yes No			
		I, the above-named member of the Massac	 chusetts Teach	ners' Retirement Syster	n, hereby apply to purch	nase credit for my prior			
APPLICAN	-	service, subject to my eligibility to do so. I purchase while I am a member in service (
STATEMEN	N I	absence for not more than one year); have school; have Part 3 of this application com	Part 2 of this	application complete	d by a representative of	my prior out- of-state			
AND	\ -	over my prior out-of-state employer; subm due before my date of retirement from the	iit Parts 1, 2 ai	nd 3 together to the N	MTRS at the same time; a	and, pay the total amount			
SIGNATUR	(E	another system based on this service, I unc	derstand that						
Avoid delays	S—	information I have provided is true and acc	zurate.						
check your a	answers	s: X							
before submitting		Signature			Date				
your applica	ition.	payroll offici Part 3 to the Once the cor	al of your administ mpleted F	r prior out-of-sta trator of your parts 2 and 3 ar	and Part 3. Forwa ate school distric rior out-of-state e returned to yo	t and forward retirement plan.			
Form OOS-120120	16	completed a	pplication	n to the MTRS i	n its entirety.				



M A I N O F F I C E 500 Rutherford Ave., Suite 210, Charlestown, MA 02129 ■ 617-679-MTRS (6877) ■ Fax 617-679-1661 WESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE One Monarch Place, Suite 510, Springfield, MA 01144 ■ 413-784-1711 ■ Fax 413-784-1707

Service credit purchase application

Out-of-state public school teaching service in the United States or Puerto Rico

Part 2 of 3: Section 1 to be completed by applicant
Sections 2–4 to be completed by payroll official of out-of-state school district

DART 2 SECTION 1	sections 2 1 to be completed	by payron official of out of state serious district				
PART 2, SECTION 1						
APPLICANT DATA	a) Name of applicant					
Instructions to applicant:	a) Name of applicant					
Please provide your	b) Social Security numberXXX-XX-XXXX					
personal data and then	2, coda. codans, named name name name name name name name name					
forward these two pages to the payroll	c) Former/maiden name, if applicable	☐ Not applicabl				
officer of each of the out- of-state school districts	d) Mailing address Number and street					
at which you rendered service for completion of Part 2.	City	State ZIP				
The payroll officer will	e) Phone number	Home Cell Work				
then return these completed	f) E-mail					
pages to you, and you are responsible for	g) Name of out-of-state public school system					
forwarding Parts 1, 2 and 3 to the MTRS in order to apply to	h) Period of service mm/dd/yyyy	From to				
purchase this service.	INSTRUCTIONS TO PAYROLL OFFICIAL OF OUT-OF-STATE SCHOOL DISTRICT					
	The member of the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System named above wishes to apply to purchase credit for his or her service rendered in your public school. At this time, the member and the MTRS respectfully request that you please complete Part 2 of the application, as follows:					
	1) Verify that the applicant was employed by your					
	2) Complete Sections 2 through 4, below, and make a copy of these two pages for your records.					
	3) Return the originals of these two pages directly to the applicant . It is then the applicant's responsibility to submit his or her application to the MTRS.					
	If you have any questions about this form or our ret Thank you for your assistance to our member and u	irement system, please contact us at 617-679-6877. Is!				
PART 2, SECTION 2						
APPLICANT'S RETIREMENT PLAN,	Was the applicant eligible to participate in a retirement plan, other than Social Security (e.g., a state retirement plan, or a defined contribution plan to which your school district made employer contributions)?					
IF ANY	If "yes," please identify the retirement plan(s):					

Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System: Service credit purchase application	Applicant's name	
Out-of-State public school teaching service in the United States or Puerto Rico		
Part 2, page 2 of 2	MTRS member number	

PART 2, SECTION 3

APPLICANT'S **SERVICE AND** SALARY HISTORY

Please provide **COMPLETE** information, as we must receive **ALL SERVICE AND SALARY** data to process the applicant's request.

Please report the applicant's service and salary history with your district. If additional space is needed, please make a photocopy of this sheet and be sure to sign each additional sheet.

- Period of employment: List each school year separately (for example, 1986–87 on one line, 1987-88 on another).
- Employment basis: For each period, check EITHER Permanent OR Temporary or substitute.
- Employment status: Indicate as a percentage of full-time employment (e.g., indicate fulltime as "100%;" half-time, as "50%").
- Salary: For service rendered on a:
 - Permanent basis, list the "Annual contract rate" for that employment status (e.g., if the applicant worked on a 50% basis and, the half-time contract rate was \$24,000/year, under Annual contract rate, list \$24,000).
 - Temporary or substitute basis, list the daily or hourly "Rate of pay."

	Period of e From mm/dd/yyyy	mployment To mm/dd/yyyy	Number of days in contract	Number of days paid	k one Temporary or substitute	Employment status As a % of full-time	SALARY (Pro Annual contract rate	ovide EITHER) Rate of pay (e.g., \$50/day or \$8/hour)	Actual gross amount paid
a)						%	\$	\$	\$
b)						%	\$	\$	\$
c)						%	\$	\$	\$
d)						%	\$	\$	\$
e)						%	\$	\$	\$

For each Period of employment listed in lines a through e, above, please provide the corresponding Position information, below.

Position title			a license/certification? (e.g., Dept. of Education)		If "yes," during did the applicationse/certificationse	ng this period, cant hold this cation?
a)	No	Yes; specify			No	Yes
b)	No	Yes; specify			No	Yes
c)	No	Yes; specify			No	Yes
d)	No	Yes; specify			No	Yes
e)	No	Yes; specify			No	Yes
PART 2, SECTION 4						
STATEMENT AND	I certify that the inforn	nation I have pro	vided above is true and acc	urate.		
SIGNATURE OF SCHOOL	Signature of school department official	X		Date	/	/
DEPARTMENT	Name			Phone		
OFFICIAL	Title			E-mail		
	Name of school			Website		

Website



Form OOS-12012016

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Service credit purchase application

Out-of-state public school teaching service in the United States or Puerto Rico

Part 3 of 3: Section 1 to be completed by applicant Sections 2–4 to be completed by official of out-of-state retirement system

	•	,					
PART 3, SECTION 1							
APPLICANT DATA AND RELEASE	a) Name of applicant						
Instructions to applicant:	b) Social Security numberXXX-XX-XXXX						
Please provide your personal data and then forward these two	c) Former/maiden name, if applicable	☐ Not applicable					
pages to the official of each of the retirement	d) Mailing address Number and street						
systems that had jurisdiction over your periods of service	City	State ZIP					
for completion of Part 3.	e) Phone number	Home Cell Work					
The official will then return these completed	f) E-mail						
pages to you, and you	APPLICANT'S AUTHORIZATION FOR RELE						
are responsible for forwarding Parts 1, 2	I, the above-named applicant, hereby authorize the release of information concerning my retirement						
and 3 to the MTRS	account with your system, if any, to the Massach	nusetts Teachers' Retirement System.					
in order to apply to purchase this service.	Signature of applicant	X					
PART 3, SECTION 2	Date	/ /					
RETIREMENT SYSTEM CONTACT INFO If you have any questions about this form or our retirement system, please contact us at 617-679-6877. Thank you for your assistance to our member and us!	purchase credit for his or her service rendered upon At this time, the member and the MTRS respects 1) Verify whether the applicant was ever a mm 2) Complete Sections 2–4, and make a copy applicant returns to service with your retiremand. 3) After you have completed these sections, R	irement System named above wishes to apply to nder the jurisdiction of your retirement system. fully request that you please: ember of your retirement system. of these two pages for your records. Additionally, if the ement system in the future, please notify us.					
member and as:	Please provide the contact information of the ref	tirement system official completing this form:					
	Name of retirement system	Website					
	Your name	Phone					
	Your title	E-mail					

Massachusetts Teachers' Retirem	ient System: Service credit purchase appli	cation Applicant's name				
Out-of-State public school teachin Part 3, page 2 of 2	ng service in the United States or Puerto Ric	MTRS member number				
PART 3, SECTION 3						
APPLICANT'S HISTORY WITH YOUR SYSTEM	a) Was the applicant ever a membe If "yes," please provide the informake a photocopy of this sheet a	mation requested below. If add				
Period(s) of service Type of plan Contributions made						
From To mm/dd/yyyy mm/dd/y	Employer ////	Defined Defined DB/DC benefit contribution hybrid				
	edit represented by all periods of serviployer "picked up" contributions as Employe		years, months			
No. If the appl please indicate c) Based on the service with Currently receiving a Entitled to receive a		ire, at apply): Employee contribu				
If "yes," h	ant waive his or her right to a future be as the applicant waived that right? a NON-CONTRIBUTORY SYSTEN	Yes; please attach document				
waive his or he If "yes," h d) While the applicant was a rendered in any other sta	r right to the years of service with your as the applicant waived that right? a member of your system, did he or ste or Puerto Rico?	system?	ntation of waiver No			
	lease list the state(s):					
PART 3, SECTION 4						
STATEMENT AND SIGNATURE OF RETIREMENT SYSTEM OFFICIAL	Signature of retirement official	provided above is true and acc	Date			
Form OOS-12012016	Reminder: Please return these two OR	IGINAL pages directly to the app	□ olicant, not the MTRS. Thank you!			