Creditable Service, Employment Events, LOAs and WC **Employer Services Unit**

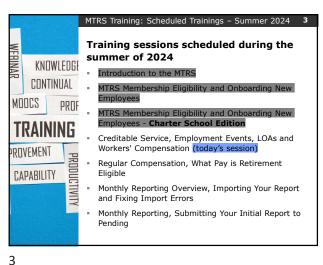


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Today's Agenda

- Training sessions being offered in the Summer of 2024
- How the MTRS benefit calculation works, the key $% \left({{{\rm{A}}_{\rm{B}}}} \right)$ components
- Service correction codes
- The Employee Roster and employment events, including LOAs and Workers' Compensation
- Other ways employees can be credited service
- Employees signing in to view their service through the Member Self Service portal









Creditable service, employment events, LOAs, WC Important facts about the benefit

- The MTRS is a free benefit to public employers, funded by employee contributions and funding from the commonwealth, there is no employer match on standard member contributions
- Public employers should use pension benefits as a recruitment tool, which also helps with retention
- Employees earn service credit for public employment
- Service as a teacher is accumulated from all public teaching in the same benefit

Non-"teacher" service transfers to the MTRS if a teacher previously belonged one of the other Massachusetts public employers to MTRS as a paraprofessional, etc.

Members can enhance their benefit through a limited number of service purchases for non-credited eligible service

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Creditable service, employment events, LOAs, WC 5 MTRS benefits provided

MTRS benefits are based on age, service and salary

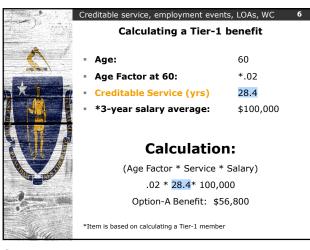
Retirement benefits are guaranteed for life

- There are two tiers, based on when a member's continual service rights begin, Tier-2 was introduced in 2012
- Members can opt for a benefit that covers a firstfamily member (typically a spouse) for the beneficiary's life if the retiree passes before their beneficiary

Members can choose to refund their account if they either do not qualify for a benefit when terminating service or decide it is a better option (as long as they did not move from MTRS to Massachusetts contributory retirement board)

The MTRS also offers both accidental and ordinary disability benefits to members who apply.

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Creditable service, employment events, LOAs, WC Establishing Creditable Service • Your employees earn service for every normal payroll record in which they are paid base salary. • Service is credited at a ratio of: Base earnings Full-time/Full-year Annual salary

This formula, highlights the importance of making sure the annual salary in your reports is the accurate **full-year**, **full time** (FTE) salary.

Since the implementation of MyTRS in July 2010, service is credited to your employees' when their deductions are released into their account. (See deduction reporting about **Released** reports.)

You might be asking yourself, what if the base differs?

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Now that we've covered how service is calculated during reporting, now let's discuss how MTRS handles service when the earnings reported vary from the earnings expected

There are a variety of legitimate reasons why the base pay being reported in a normal record vary from the expected base such as:

- a mid-year salary adjustment,

Service Correction codes

- An employee exhausting accrued sick/vacation time or,
- someone being pro-rated because they were hired midyear

In some of those scenarios, the ratio of base earnings to salary will not equitably calculate service based on the formula previously discussed so the MTRS created service correction codes so employers can code pay to inform the MTRS how to credit service

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Creditable service, employment events, LOAs, WC Why Service Correction codes in deduction reports are so important:

Service correction codes (SC Codes) used during deduction reporting instruct. MyTRS how to calculate creditable service when releasing a normal record. SC Codes alter an employee's service credit, so it is important to use the proper one to ensure your employee receives the correct amount of service credit. **Example:**

- Jen Chen is a full-time employee with an annual salary of \$52,000.
- She is on a 26-pay schedule and makes \$2,000 per check.
- She receives .038461 years of service each normal check (1/26 of salary).
- Jen goes out on an unpaid leave and receives a payout of her earnings in May, \$10,440, in her last check.

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Creditable service, employment events, LOAs, WC Using the incorrect service correction code

A common mistake would be to use the UL-Unpaid Admin Leave code.

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- Using this service correction code, would give Jen only .038461 years (1/26 of a year of service).
- As a result, Jenn will lose .162308 years of service credit.

Using the correct service correction code

Available Service Correction Codes (Tab 19 in the training booklet, highlighted in yellow in the index)

prior missed paycheck.

 Your employee starts the school year after the first day and has their pay prorated as

Pav is double the normal amount due to a

MT – Mid-Year Termination or Death: Employee leaves the district prior to the end of the school year and the final pay is

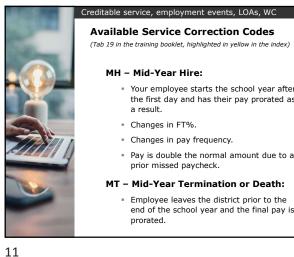
MH - Mid-Year Hire:

a result. Changes in FT%. Changes in pay frequency.

prorated.

- Since Jen has been paid out what she earned for the school year before her leave, you should use the PO-Payout code for her last pay before her LOA.
 - The correct service would be .200769 years of service (base/salary, or 10,440/52,000).

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Available Service Correction Codes (Tab 19 in the training booklet, highlighted in yellow in the index)

SC - Salary Change Mid-Period:

- Pay has been recalculated due to a change in annual salary and/or position without a change in FT%.
- Accidental overpayment or underpayment.
- There is no expected variance in credit

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Available Service Correction Codes (Tab 19 in the training booklet, highlighted in yellow in the index)

PL – Prorated Paid Leave:

- Pay has been prorated due to an unpaid leave either:
 - While your employee is physically out, or
 - In advance, while they are still working.
- Partially paid sabbatical.

RL – Return from Leave:

 Pay has been recalculated after your employee has returned from an unpaid leave.

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Available Service Correction Codes (Tab 19 in the training booklet, highlighted in yellow in the index)

SD – Unpaid Snow Day:

- Pay docked due to a snow day.
- DL Disciplinary Leave:
 - Pay docked for disciplinary reasons.

ST - Unpaid Strike Day:

Pay docked due to a strike.



The Employee Roster and required member employment events Employers are required to register employees and

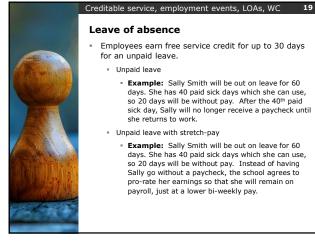
provide the MTRS with notice of any employment changes in accordance with M.G.L. c. 32 § 3

- (g) Department heads shall furnish to the board within thirty days after employing any new personnel or after the receipt of a written request therefor, a statement giving the name, address, title, rate of regular compensation, duties, date of birth and length and class of service of each employee in his department, and shall notify the board within thirty days of any change in the title, address, rate of compensation, duties or service of any employee in his department.
- To facilitate this process, the MTRS provides access to employers to their Employee Roster in MyTRS
- Note: Employee Registration is covered in our training session on Membership Eligibility

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Leave of absence

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Employees earn free service credit for up to 30 days for an unpaid leave.

Unpaid leave

- Example: Sally Smith will be out on leave for 60 days. She has 40 paid sick days which she can use, so 20 days will be without pay. After the 40th paid sick day, Sally will no longer receive a paycheck until she returns to work.
- Unpaid leave with stretch-pay
 - Example: Sally Smith will be out on leave for 60 days. She has 40 paid sick days which she can use, so 20 days will be without pay. Instead of having Sally go without a paycheck, the school agrees to pro-rate her earnings so that she will remain on payroll, just at a lower bi-weekly pay.

Employees who are placed on pro-rated paid leave earn prorated service credit on the basis of pro-rata.

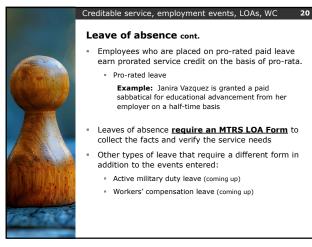
Example: Janira Vazquez is granted a paid sabbatical for educational advancement from her employer on a half-time basis

Leaves of absence **require an MTRS LOA Form** to collect the facts and verify the service needs Other types of leave that require a different form in

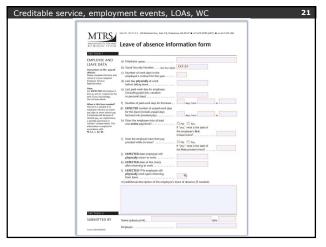
Pro-rated leave

addition to the events entered: Active military duty leave (coming up) Workers' compensation leave (coming up)

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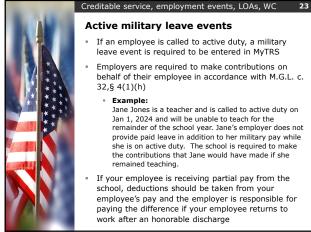
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Active military leave events

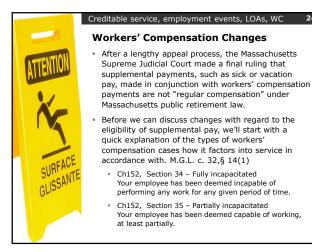
- If an employee is called to active duty, a military leave event is required to be entered in MyTRS
- Employers are required to make contributions on behalf of their employee in accordance with M.G.L. c. 32,§ 4(1)(h)

Example:

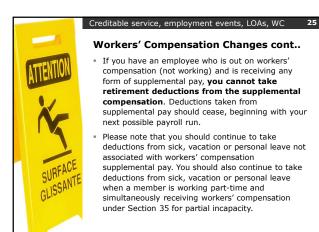
Jane Jones is a teacher and is called to active duty on Jan 1, 2024 and will be unable to teach for the remainder of the school year. Jane's employer does not provide paid leave in addition to her military pay while she is on active duty. The school is required to make the contributions that Jane would have made if she remained teaching.

If your employee is receiving partial pay from the school, deductions should be taken from your employee's pay and the employer is responsible for paying the difference if your employee returns to work after an honorable discharge

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Creditable service, employment events, LOAs, WC 26 Workers' Compensation Changes cont.. • MTRS is still in the process of developing a plan of

action regarding refunding active employees.

 In the meantime, for any employee that you are aware of who had deductions from supplemental pay, please start to compile the following information per :

Employee name and last 4 SSN

- Date range employee was receiving workers' compensation benefits (not working)
- Payroll records showing the supplemental pay and corresponding MTRS deductions taken

Employees on workers' compensation should have their leaves also documented on the Worker's compensation form

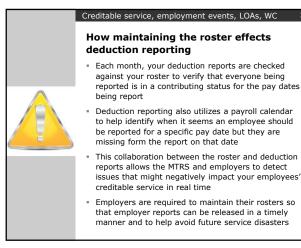






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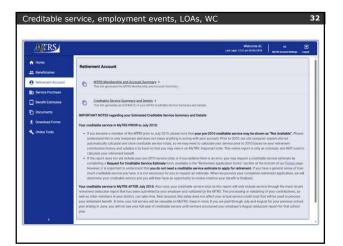
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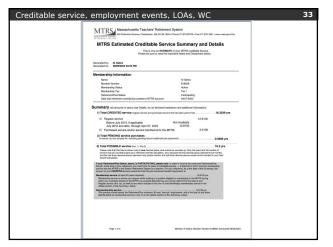
Members can sign into MyTRS to view creditable service The member self-service module (MSS) allows MTRS

- members to login and view their estimated creditable service.
- Since service is credited on the release of your deduction reports, your employees might not be seeing their most recent service.
- The creditable service report is the source of why some employers are hearing form their employees that their contributions or service are "missing".
- MTRS has increased staff to reduce processing time on reports but we need employers to be responsive to questions and make sure they are submitting reports that match their payments and have met all of their reporting requirements; help us help you

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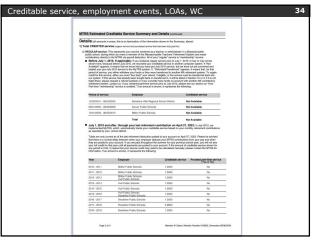


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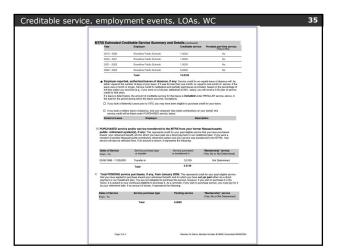


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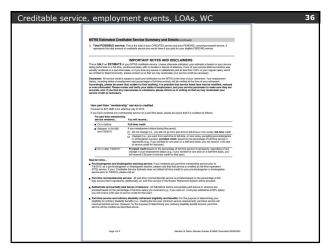




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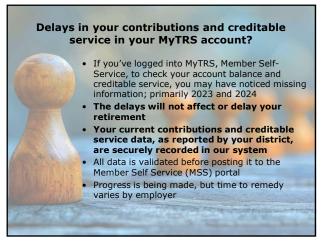


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Creditable service, employment events, LOAs, WC

You are a key partner in helping us administer your employees' benefits

- Determining MTRS membership eligibility
- Registering your employees, track enrollment
- Understanding "regular compensation"
- Reporting members' retirement deductions Informing the MTRS of changes in employment status
- Completing service purchase applications
- Verifying service and retaining records
- Refund and retirement applications

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