

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

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HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Combination of factors

- Economic boom of the 1990's
- Benefit improvements
- Underfunding
- Economic recession
- State budget woes

WHAT IS THE REAL STORY?

71% of large public education pension plans have funded ratios at or above 70%

- These funds are not in the headlines
- What do they have in common?

We only hear about the systems with problems

- What do they have in common?

WHAT DO WE DO?

- Advocate for on time and adequate contributions
- Be above reproach
- Prevent the unfair manipulation of pension calculations
- Separate ideology and hysteria from facts
- Middle ground won't work
- Promote our positive message

MESSAGING

- Ideologues are winning the messaging war
- We need to get a positive message out
- Use research and data to educate the public and support retirement security for public employees
 - Economic benefits to communities
 - Adequate pensions keep elderly people out of poverty
 - DB plans are cost effective
- Continue our collaboration – Labor, NCTR, NASRA, NCPERS, and allies

MESSAGING

Respond to and correct misinformation

- Educators' compensation and benefits are lower than comparable professions
- Educators' salary and pensions are modest
- Liabilities have been exaggerated
- Employees contribute to their plans
- Many educators are not in Social Security so their pension must be comparable to others who receive pensions and are in Social Security

TWO VISIONS OF THE FUTURE



DC PLAN

- ✘ Not enough to retire on
- ✘ Forced to work longer
- ✘ Possibility of needing public assistance
- ✘ Strain on families

DB PLAN

- Secure retirement
- Able to live independently
- Spending to local merchants

WHAT NEA IS DOING

- Being proactive with affiliates
- Engaging with allies
- Clear messaging
- Strategic organizing