

# TRS: Facts About the \$100,000 Salary and Pension Club

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To: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>;

**From:** [members@trsill.org](mailto:members@trsill.org)

**Date:** June 13, 2018 at 2:38:11 PM CDT

**To:**

**Subject:** Facts About the \$100,000 Salary and Pension Club



## \$100,000 Salary And Pension Club – The Facts

Dear :

In recent weeks, a new website identifying 30,000 TRS members as a "\$100,000+ Salary & Pension Club" has been circulated via social media and several news sites.

The website was created by the [OpenTheBooks.com](http://OpenTheBooks.com) watchdog organization. In *Forbes* magazine, the group said that Illinois is home to "the most out-of-control" and "corrupted... education pay-and-pension systems..."

However, a closer look at the numbers shows that membership in this "\$100 K Club" was the exception for Illinois teachers, not the rule.

TRS provided the group with records through a Freedom of Information Act request. There were 30,492 active or retired TRS members in 2017 who either received a salary or a pension of \$100,000 or more.

But here's what [OpenTheBooks.com](http://OpenTheBooks.com) chose not to mention:

- There were a total of 268,608 active and retired TRS members in 2017. Therefore, the \$100 K Club comprised just 11.4 percent of these TRS members. In other words, 88.6 percent of active and retired teachers in Illinois were not members of the \$100 K Club.

- School districts throughout Illinois paid 18,760 teachers a salary of \$100,000 or more in 2017, out of a total of 160,488 active members.
- There were 11,732 retired members receiving a pension of \$100,000 or more in 2017 – out of a total of 108,120.
- The average active TRS member salary in 2017 was \$71,773. The average TRS pension in 2017 was \$54,180.

The website created by the [OpenTheBooks.com](https://www.openthebooks.com) enables anyone to search a map of Illinois and pinpoint all TRS members who received either a salary or a TRS pension of \$100,000 or more in 2017.

TRS did not provide [OpenTheBooks.com](https://www.openthebooks.com) with any member addresses or other personally identifiable information, but was required by the FOIA law to sort member salary and pension information by the school districts where active members were employed and by the last districts that employed retired members.

Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois

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