Legislation enacted during the 2017 legislative session allows members who retired on or before July 1, 2017 to return to employment as a classroom teacher for a public school or career technology district with no earnings limitations in certain circumstances. Members seeking to return to employment as a classroom teacher under this provision must meet all of the following requirements:

1. The member must have been employed as an active classroom teacher as is defined in 70 O.S. § 17-101(27) for at least one full school year immediately prior to their date of retirement. Members employed as superintendents, administrators, or in other non-classroom teacher positions during the school year immediately preceding retirement are ineligible;

2. The member can only be employed as an active classroom teacher as defined in 70 O.S. § 17-101(27) when they return to employment;

3. The member must have been retired and drawing a TRS retirement benefit and not be employed by any public school or career technology district in any capacity for the twelve (12) consecutive months immediately following the last day of employment prior to their retirement date; and

4. Prior to the member’s return to employment the member must provide to TRS on forms prescribed by TRS, documentation establishing their eligibility under this provision. This documentation must be accepted by and approved by TRS prior to the member commencing employment under this provision.