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Master Educator Premiums (MEP) Boise, Idaho – October 15, 2019

Recently, the Idaho State Board of Education announced the awarding of Master Educator Premiums (MEP) to over 1,200 educators throughout the State of Idaho. Idaho Code 33-1004I provides that educators who receive the MEP will be paid \$4,000 each year for three (3) years. PERSI considers the MEP to be included as “salary” because it is part of the “total salary or wages paid” to the educator (Idaho Code 59-1302(31(A))). Because the MEP is considered salary, if the payments fall during the educator’s 42-month base period, they will be counted as part of the educator’s average monthly salary. This is true whether the MEP is paid as a one-time lump-sum, spread over a period of months, or paid as a pre-tax salary deferral to the Choice 401(k). Additionally, because the MEP is considered “salary”, PERSI contributions will be required.

For additional questions, please contact the PERSI Answer Center at 208-334-3365.

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