

## Letters to the editor on pensions

Your letter to the editor should comply with the rules for length and content of the news outlet to which you are sending it. You will usually find the rules on the editorial page or website of the outlet.

All newspapers accept emailed letters. Check their websites for information.

A list of almost every local newspaper in Illinois can be found at [this link](#)

Your letter should include at least one of the IEA talking points on pensions:

- Teachers, education support professionals and university staff do not receive social security for their years as an educator.
- Teachers, education support professionals and university staff have always paid their share for their retirement and never missed a payment.
- For most education employees, their pension represents their life savings and is their sole source of retirement income.

### Writing the letter:

This letter should represent the personal statements of the sender. Form letters are easily dismissed.

Your letter should be brief, concise and clear. Again, be sure to include at least one of the talking points as shown above. Here is an example of what such a letter might look like:

*To the editor:*

*I'm very concerned that the state legislature will cut pension benefits for teachers like myself.*

*It's important to understand that, in Illinois, teachers do not receive social security. My pension represents my entire retirement savings.*

*The Illinois pension problem was caused by the state's failure to make the payments it was supposed to make to the pension systems. Had the state made its payments during the last 30 years, we would have no pension problem*

*The teachers have always paid their share, never missing a payment.*

*I urge the legislature not to diminish my life savings and the ability of education employees to have a reasonable retirement after their careers have ended.*