

143.

(1) Except as hereinafter provided, all service with a public school rendered by a teacher on or after January 1, 1980, and before his retirement shall be eligibility service for the purposes of this pension system. With respect to any calendar year in which a teacher completes at least 700 hours of service, there shall be included in his eligibility service a full year of eligibility service. Eligibility service may not be recognized for any fiscal year in which the teacher completes less than 700 hours of service. Any calendar year after the year in which a teacher first becomes employed during which he does not complete more than 350 hours of service shall be considered a break in service. Any service rendered before a break in service that occurs before the year in which a teacher retires, dies, or otherwise terminates his employment or becomes 62 years old may not be recognized as eligibility service, until the teacher completes 1 year of eligibility service following the break in service. However, if a teacher who has not completed the eligibility requirements for a vested retirement allowance incurs a break in service in which the number of consecutive 1-year breaks in service equals or exceeds the aggregate number of years of eligibility service rendered before the break in service, except for any years of eligibility service disregarded because of any prior break in service, the service rendered before the break in service may not be included in his eligibility service. If a teacher terminates his employment and is reemployed after incurring a break in service, his service before the break in service may not be included in his eligibility service, except as provided in this section.

(2) With respect to any person who was employed by a public school on December 31, 1979, eligibility service for service rendered before that date shall be equal to the creditable service recognized through December 31, 1979 under the retirement system in effect on that date.

[(3) Service for purposes of this section shall mean service as a teacher, whether or not as a teacher as herein defined.]

[(4)] (3) Eligibility service shall include periods while in the military service as specified in Article 65, § 88 of the Code.

[(5)] (4) A period during which a teacher is on a leave of absence approved by the board of trustees, under rules that apply to all teachers similarly situated, shall be included in eligibility service, if the period of leave is not included otherwise under this section.