



A newsletter for
active members of
the NYS Teachers'
Retirement System

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**Don't be fooled
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**Want facts
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NYSTRS pension?**

**Get them from
NYSTRS, not from
a pretender.**

Call
(800) 348-7298
to schedule a
consultation
with a certified
NYSTRS
representative.

YourSource

May 2019



NYSTRS Ranked Near Top In Two National Surveys

With almost \$120 billion in assets and a nearly 100% funding ratio, NYSTRS continues to rank among the top 10 largest retirement plans and among the best-funded public pension systems in the country, according to two recent national surveys.

Pensions & Investments ranked NYSTRS as No. 10 among the largest retirement plans based on total assets in its annual survey of the 1,000 largest public and private U.S. retirement plans.

The second survey, by the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS), found that average funding levels for public pension plans increased from 71.4% in 2017 to 72.6% in 2018. NYSTRS ranks well above that average with a funded ratio of 98% using an actuarial valuation of assets and a funded ratio of 100% using a market valuation of assets.

Public pension plans are using more conservative actuarial assumptions. The average investment return assumption is now 7.34%, according to the 2018 NCPERS Public Retirement Systems Study. NYSTRS uses an even more conservative assumption of 7.25%.

Over the past 30 years at NYSTRS, investment income has provided 85% of pension funding, while employer and member contributions have provided 15%.

MyNYSTRS Refresh Complete

If you have a MyNYSTRS account but haven't logged in recently, it will look much different when you do.

MyNYSTRS is a secure online portal available exclusively to NYSTRS members. The area was recently refreshed with a new, more modern design that makes it look good and work smoothly on any device — your cell phone, tablet or computer.

Unlike the old design, which could be difficult to navigate on mobile devices, the new MyNYSTRS is easy to use, no matter how big or small your screen. Navigation is streamlined and more intuitive, and the text is easier to read.

Some 175,000 members have MyNYSTRS accounts and enjoy the ability to:

- Review salary, service credit, contributions, and beneficiary information.
- Calculate estimated pensions.
- Manage/update contact information.
- E-subscribe to NYSTRS publications.
- Send a secure message to NYSTRS.
- Schedule a consultation with a NYSTRS representative or register for a PREP seminar.
- View and print their *Benefit Profile*.

- Apply for a service retirement and track the processing of the application.
- Calculate loan estimates and apply for a loan.
- File a prior service claim.

Having a MyNYSTRS account not only provides convenience, it actually enhances the security of your private information. Creating an account ensures an imposter cannot create one using your credentials. Also, because last login date and time are displayed, you can identify and immediately report any suspicious activity.

It's easy to create an account. Simply visit our website at NYSTRS.org and click on the MyNYSTRS Login tab near the top of any page. Select the word Register under the heading "Don't Have a MyNYSTRS Account?" and follow the step-by-step instructions given. Have both your seven-digit NYSTRS EmplID (found on your *Benefit Profile* and all official correspondence you receive from NYSTRS) and the last four digits of your Social Security number handy before you begin.

You'll create a username, password, and an identity verification phrase — all designed to provide multiple layers of security.

YOUR *Source*

NYS Teachers' Retirement System
10 Corporate Woods Drive
Albany, NY 12211-2395

NYSTRS.org

Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Summer Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Friday: 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Telephone

(800) 348-7298

Albany-Area Calls: (518) 447-2900

Beneficiary Information	Ext. 6130
Benefits Consultations	Ext. 6100
Direct Deposit	Ext. 6230
Disability	Ext. 6010
Earnings After Retirement	Ext. 6150
General Information	Ext. 6250
In-Service Death Benefit Info.	Ext. 6110
Legislation	Ext. 6200
Loans	Ext. 6080
Member Service Credit	Ext. 6075
Membership Withdrawals	Ext. 6090
Military Service	Ext. 6060
MyNYSTRS	Ext. 6085
PREP Seminars	Ext. 6180
Prior Service	Ext. 6030
Reinst./Retro. Membership	Ext. 6070
Report Fraud	Ext. 2846
Retirement Estimates	Ext. 6020
Transfer-In	Ext. 6040
Transfer-Out	Ext. 6050

Automated Hotline

(800) 782-0289

RETIREMENT BOARD

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Executive Director & Chief Investment Officer

FRAUD COMPLAINT?

Email investigations@nystrs.org or call
the Report Fraud number listed above.

Schools to Save \$300M In Pension Costs

Welcome news for New York public schools and the taxpayers who fund them: Pension costs are expected to drop about 17% for the 2019-20 school year, saving New York's public schools an estimated \$300 million collectively.

At the January meeting of the NYSTRS Board, the System's Actuary estimated that the employer contribution rate (ECR) for the 2019-20 school year will be 8.86% of payroll, down from the 10.62% rate to be applied to 2018-19 payroll. The final rate will be adopted by the Board at its July 31 meeting.

The ECR is determined annually through a valuation of NYSTRS' assets and liabilities. Employer and employee contributions have been collected without fail throughout the System's history, keeping NYSTRS among the best-funded and most-secure plans in the country. The plan's funded ratio is nearly 100% — well above the national average of 73%.

However, the Actuary also noted that because investment returns are a major component of ECR calculations and recent returns have been lower than expected, future ECRs will likely be higher. In an administrative bulletin to NYSTRS-participating employers announcing the estimated 8.86% rate, school officials were cautioned to keep this in mind when developing future budgets.

Over the past 30 years, investment income has accounted for 85% of NYSTRS' income. Member and employer contributions made up the other 15%.



Help Us Find Owners Of Unclaimed Funds

It's a great feeling to reach into the pocket of a jacket you haven't worn in a while and find a five- or 10-dollar bill you'd forgotten about. Now imagine how it would feel to pull out \$1,600!



That's the average amount of money left in the more than 10,000 abandoned retirement accounts held by NYSTRS. About half of the abandoned accounts contain less than \$500, but there are currently 87 accounts with more than \$10,000 in them.

We want to get those funds into the hands of their rightful owners and you can help. We've used every known avenue to locate these former members, their beneficiaries or their estates and we've come up empty. But they are your former co-workers and friends, so you may know where they are.

Go to NYSTRS.org and click the [Unclaimed Funds link](#) on the bottom of any page. Then you can search two separate lists — [Abandoned Accounts](#) and [Unclaimed Accounts](#). You can search for a particular person by last name or you can search by last known teaching location and see if you spot anyone you know from your own school district.

If you find people you know, please contact them or their families and encourage them to call us at (800) 348-7298, Ext. 6090. There is no time limit for claiming an abandoned or unclaimed account.

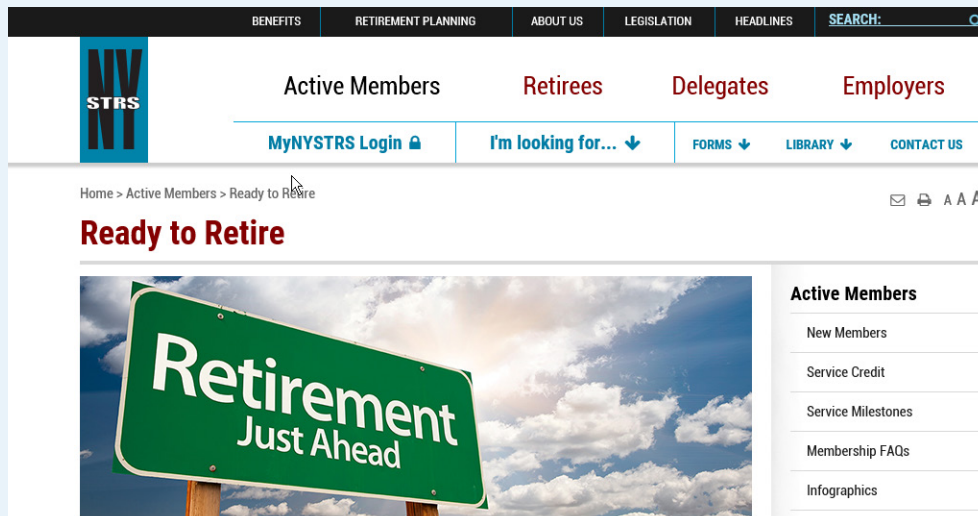
An Unclaimed Account contains funds from teachers who contribute to the System but leave public sector work before they are vested in the Retirement System — at five years of service for Tiers 1-4 or 10 years for Tiers 5-6. If the accounts are not withdrawn within a certain time period, they are added to the Abandoned Accounts list and held until the former member or his or her beneficiary or estate claims them.

Ready to Retire Page Added to NYSTRS.org

Retiring at the end of the school year? Everything you need to know about the NYSTRS retirement process is now gathered in one easy-to-use [Ready to Retire page](#) on our website at [NYSTRS.org](#). It's accessible from both the Active Members and Retirement Planning tabs.

The information, publications and videos provided will walk you through this major life event. From what to do early in the process to what to expect after you file, the page is loaded with helpful resources and tools that will put you at ease as you navigate the retirement path. For example, you'll find information on selecting the benefit payment best for you, filing your retirement application and how your first monthly payment is calculated.

Something the information on the Ready to Retire page does not do, however, is replace the need for you to schedule a benefit consultation with one of our information representatives. This should be a critical piece of the retirement process for you. We also urge you to attend one of our Pension & Retirement Education Program (PREP) seminars. Instructions on how to schedule both are found on this new page.



Retirement Planning FAQs

If you're retiring soon, we're sure you have lots of questions about the application process, how benefits are calculated, what planning resources are available to you, and more. You'll find the answers to many of these questions in our newly revised [Retirement Planning FAQs page](#).

The questions are grouped into categories to make it easy for you to find the information you need. The categories include: benefit calculations, benefit payments, disability retirement, filing for retirement, and planning resources. There's also a miscellaneous category for those questions that did not fit well elsewhere.

Click on a category to view the most frequently asked questions for a particular topic. If more detailed information is needed, the answer will also include helpful links to additional NYSTRS resources.

If what you need answered isn't covered, give us a call at (800) 348-7298, Ext. 6250.

Consider These Factors Before Retiring

When it comes to filing your NYSTRS retirement application, timing can be everything.

Items to consider include how close your retirement date is to critical age and service credit milestones and pending legislation that could impact your benefit.

While it's tempting to retire the first day you believe you are eligible, don't cut it too close. If, for example, you miscount the number of days you worked in your final year, you may fall short of the credit needed to reach a 20-year or 30-year milestone. If that happens, your pension will be lower than expected — often significantly so — and the repercussions will be permanent.

Instead, give yourself a cushion: work longer than you think is necessary if you're close to a threshold and discuss your unique situation with a System representative before filing for retirement. Refer to the [Active Members' Handbook](#) available at [NYSTRS.org](#) for details on how your pension is calculated.

Pending legislation is also something to consider. Periodically, the New York State Legislature enacts new laws that impact NYSTRS and/or the state's other public retirement systems. New laws impacting members are generally effective no later than June 30 of the year the legislation is enacted. So, if your retirement date is on or after July 1, you may still benefit from legislation signed later in the calendar year.

Visit the [Pending Legislation page](#) of NYSTRS.org to see if anything is in the works that could affect you. If you're unsure whether a law could impact you, call us at (800) 348-7298, Ext. 6250.

Did You Know...

To receive a pension, you must submit a retirement application with NYSTRS? Resigning from your job and filing for retirement are two separate and distinct actions.

NYSTRS Board Meeting Highlights

January 31, 2019

- **Re-elected** David P. Keefe as president and Michael J. Masse as vice president of the Board.
- **Authorized** a commitment of up to \$1 billion in one or more tranches to Arrowstreet Capital LP to manage a portion of the System's assets as a global equity manager benchmarked to the MSCI ACWI index, for a period of one year, subject to the satisfactory completion of due diligence.
- **Authorized** a commitment of an additional \$400 million to The Maple Fund LP, a separate account managed by HarbourVest Partners which seeks to increase NYSTRS' exposure to co-investment opportunities with certain of the System's private equity and private debt managers. The System previously committed \$600 million to this fund (Oct. 2017).
- **Renewed** the agreement with Iridian Asset Management LLC to manage a portion of the System's portfolio as an active domestic mid-capitalization equity manager, for one year, effective April 1, 2019.
- **Renewed** the agreement with Cohen & Steers Capital Management Inc. to manage a portion of the System's assets in Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Real Estate Operating Companies (REOCs), for one year, effective Feb. 12, 2019.
- **Renewed** the agreement with BlackRock Financial Management Inc. to manage a portion of the System's assets in Commercial Mortgage Backed Securities (CMBS), for one year, effective April 3, 2019.
- **Renewed** the agreement with Ariel Investments LLC to manage a portion of the System's assets as an MSCI ACWI Ex-U.S. international equity manager, for one year, effective April 10, 2019.
- **Renewed** the agreement with J.P. Morgan Investment Management Inc. to manage a portion of the System's assets as an active U.S. high-yield manager benchmarked to the ICE BofAML BB-B U.S. High Yield Constrained Index (HUC4), for one year, effective March 5, 2019.


- **Renewed** the agreement with Columbia Management Investment Advisers LLC to manage a portion of the System's assets as an active U.S. high-yield manager benchmarked to the ICE BofAML BB-B U.S. High Yield Constrained Index (HUC4), for one year, effective March 6, 2019.
- **Renewed** the agreement with FIS Group Inc. to manage a portion of the System's assets as a manager of international equity managers benchmarked to the ACWI Ex-U.S. Index, for one year, effective April 25, 2019.
- **Authorized** the Executive Director and Chief Investment Officer to renew the agreement with TorreyCove Capital Partners to serve as the System's private equity consultant, for one year, effective May 1, 2019.
- **Authorized** the Executive Director and Chief Investment Officer to renew the agreement with KPMG LLP for audit and ancillary services, including an examination of the System's financial statements for the years ending June 30, 2019 and June 30, 2020.
- **Authorized** the Executive Director and Chief Investment Officer to terminate the agreement with Aberdeen Standard Investments, formerly known as Aberdeen Asset Management Inc., to manage a portion of the System's equity portfolio.
- **Approved** amendments to the System's Rules and Regulations related to member loans and membership transfers.
- **Approved** amendments to the System's Investment Policy Manual, including the revision of investment authority delegated to the Executive Director and Chief Investment Officer as it relates to private equity and private debt investments.

April 25, 2019

- **Authorized** an investment of up to \$200 million in a NYSTRS/StepStone private debt separately managed account, subject to the satisfactory completion of due diligence.
- **Authorized** the Executive Director and Chief Investment Officer to contract with The Bank of New York Mellon to act as

an agency securities lender for a portion of the System's public securities assets, subject to the satisfactory completion of due diligence.

- **Renewed** the agreement with JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A. to act as an agency securities lender for a portion of the System's public securities assets, for one year, effective July 1, 2019.
- **Renewed** the agreement with Wellington Management Company LLP to manage a portion of the System's fixed income portfolio in a global aggregate fixed income mandate, for one year, effective June 20, 2019.
- **Renewed** the agreement with Adelante Capital Management LLC to manage a portion of the System's assets by actively investing in U.S. securities of real estate investment trusts (REITs) and real estate operating companies (REOCs), for one year, effective July 1, 2019.
- **Renewed** the agreement with Arrowstreet Capital LP to manage a portion of the System's assets as an international equity manager benchmarked to the MSCI ACWI Ex-U.S. Index, for one year, effective July 18, 2019.
- **Renewed** the agreement with LSV Asset Management to manage a portion of the System's assets as an active ACWI Ex-U.S. international equity manager, for one year, effective July 25, 2019.
- **Approved** a recommendation by the System's Managing Director of Fixed Income to change the System's global bond benchmark to the Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Float Adjusted Ex-CNY in U.S. dollars hedged to the U.S. dollar, effective April 1, 2019.
- **Approved** the Retirement System's operating budget and the System's audit plan for the 2019-20 fiscal year.
- **Appointed** Steven C. Huber to the Investment Advisory Committee to fill the position vacated by David Brigham.



Download the NYSTRS App Today!

