You’ve Decided to Retire!

What Do You Do Now?

2019 Annual Delegates Meeting
Today’s Agenda

- Video
- Filing for Service Retirement
- Options
- Payments and Processing
- Taxes
- Video
- Filing for Disability Protection
Video: NYSTRS Benefits Part 4: The Retirement Process
Resign:
From your employer based on their requirements.

Retire:
NYSTRS must receive an Application for Retirement on, or up to 90 days before, your date of retirement (DOR).
Choosing a Retirement Date

Date of Retirement (DOR):
No earlier than the day after your last contracted day of work.

For example:
If you last earn salary under contract on June 30, the earliest effective date of retirement you could select is July 1.
File an **Application for Retirement** (RET 54.6)

File a *Service Retirement Application* (RET-54) by certified or registered mail.

-OR-

File on your secure MyNYSTRS account.
Filing for Retirement-Benefit Payment Options

- Maximum
- Lump-Sum Options
- Guarantee Period Options
- Survivor Options
- Pop-Up Survivor Options

No matter which payment option you elect, you receive monthly payments for your entire lifetime.
Maximum Benefit

Provides highest annual benefit, but payments cease upon your death.

Might be best choice if:

• You don’t have any beneficiaries.

• Your beneficiaries are financially independent or covered by life insurance.

• You need the highest possible income from your pension.
**Lump-Sum Benefits**

**Largest Non-Declining Lump Sum:** You set aside fixed lump sum for beneficiary upon your death.

Might be best choice if:

- You don’t have a long life expectancy.
- You are unable to purchase private life insurance.
- You want a lump sum paid to your beneficiary(ies) when you die.
Guarantee Period Options

• You provide coverage for a 5- or 10-year period past retirement.

• If you die within the guaranteed period, your beneficiary receives your payments for the remainder of the guarantee period.

• If you outlive the guarantee period, payments cease on your death.

• You can change your beneficiary at any time during the covered period.
Guarantee Period Options

Might be best choice if:

• You need to cover one or more people for a designated period.

• You have short-term reasons you need to guarantee the pension will continue (e.g., pay off mortgage or college; bridging the gap to reaching Social Security age).
Survivor and Pop-Up Options

- You name one beneficiary. If that person outlives you, payment continues for their lifetime.
- You can’t change your beneficiary beyond 30 days after retirement.
- Cost based on the life expectancy of you and your beneficiary.
- Coverage: 100, 75, 50, or 25%.
- Pop-up: Benefit rises to Maximum if beneficiary dies before you do.

Might be best choice if:
- You need to provide income to just one beneficiary after your death.
Example is a 56-year-old female with a 59-year-old male beneficiary.
Maximum Benefit

Highest annual benefit with no payment to a beneficiary at the death of the member.
Largest Non-Declining Lump-Sum Payment

This option will pay the member an annual benefit $8,085 less than the Maximum, providing a one-time, lump-sum payment of $600,101 to designated beneficiaries.
Guarantee Options

- 5-year option reduces pension from the Maximum by $108/year.
- 10-year option reduces pension from the Maximum by $397/year.

No payment to beneficiary if member outlives the guaranteed period.
Survivor Option 100%

Member would receive a lifetime annual benefit $2,665 less than the Maximum, but would provide the surviving beneficiary with a continuing monthly benefit of the same amount upon the death of the member.

If beneficiary predeceases the member, the member benefit is unchanged.

Maximum Annual Benefit Amount $48,667
### SURVIVOR OPTIONS FOR MALE BENEFICIARY BORN 02/01/1961 COMMENCING AT DEATH OF MEMBER

<table>
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<tr>
<td>25%</td>
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**Pop-Up Survivor Option 100%**

Member would receive a lifetime annual benefit $3,040 less than the Maximum, but would provide the surviving beneficiary with a continuing monthly benefit of the same amount upon the death of the member.

If beneficiary predeceases the member, the member benefit is increased to the Maximum benefit.

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**Maximum Annual Benefit Amount $48,667**
Your retirement benefit is paid in 12 monthly payments, directly deposited into your checking or savings account on the last business day of each month.
Filing for Retirement - Your Payments

• Initial payments are based on the verified data on file when you submit your Application for Retirement.

• Retirement processing typically takes 9-12 months to complete.

• When processing is complete, you will receive a detailed letter and (if necessary) a retroactive adjustment.
Your retirement benefit is federally taxable (except for previously taxed contributions).
Ready to Retire

Visit Pages Within Active Members

If you’re getting ready to retire, this is your one-stop shop for all items related to the NYSTRS retirement process.

Contact Us
(800) 344-7299, Ext. 6250
community@nystrs.org

This is a big life event, so do the homework necessary to make informed decisions about your retirement.

First Steps
Planning Services
Benefit Payment Selection
Filing
After You File
Pension & Retirement Education Program

PREP
Pension & Retirement Education Program

PREP sessions are designed to help members of all ages prepare for retirement.

Many retirees wish they had focused on financial and retirement planning much earlier in their lives. The truth is, no matter how far along you are in your career, careful financial and retirement planning are critical.

PREP is designed to help members of all ages prepare for retirement. PREP is structured to allow you to tailor the program to fill your needs. Stay for the entire session (see the full agenda) or just the modules below that would be of greatest significance to you:

- NYSTRS Benefits: Your pension, disability coverage, leaves, vesting, death benefits. (9:45-10:15 a.m.)
- Financial Planning: Saving, estate, mutual funds, variable investments. (10:30-11 a.m.)
- Social Security Benefits: Eligibility rules, when to collect, earning limits (11:15-11:45 a.m.)
- Estate Planning: Wills, trusts, powers of attorney, health care proxies, living wills, long-term care. (12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.)
- Retirement — A New Beginning: Planning ahead, keeping active and healthy, relationships, volunteering. (1:30-2:30 p.m.)
- The Retirement Process: Retirement options, "working" vs. "retiring," choosing a retirement date, retirement checklist, county payments, taxes, benefits limitation on NYSTSS employment. (1:30-2:30 p.m.)
Benefits Consultations

Consultations enable you to ask questions about your specific situation. You can meet with a NYSTRS representative either in person or via video conference.

At a consultation, you will learn about your NYSTRS benefits, see the impact of reaching key service milestones, review your benefit payment options at retirement, and receive personalized benefit estimates.

Consultations Schedule
Make a Reservation
Directions to Consultation Sites
Countdown to Retirement

FALL
- Review your contract as you’ll know when to notify your employer you intend to retire. Also discuss with them health insurance coverage in retirement.
- If you haven’t already done so, claim and purchase credit for prior New York State public employment or military service, if eligible. Visit the Video Vault at NYSTRS.org and watch PST: Prior Service: Investigation Video for details.
- Plan to attend a NYSTRS PREP seminar for a comprehensive overview of the key retirement issues you face, including legal considerations, financial planning, Social Security, and NYSTRS benefits.
- Schedule a benefits consultation with a NYSTRS representative at a site near you to discuss and review the retirement process and get estimates for possible retirement dates.
- Begin reviewing the differences between benefit payment options available to you. See our publication Maximum or an Option for more details.
- Confirm the accuracy of service and salary information in your Benefit Profile. If there are discrepancies, ask your employer to send revised information to NYSTRS.

WINTER
- If you will be eligible to start receiving Social Security benefits at the end of the school year, contact the Social Security Administration to determine what you need to do.
- Monitor pending New York State legislation on our website because new laws could affect your NYSTRS benefits. For example, if your employer participates in a statewide retirement incentive and targets your position, your benefit would likely increase.
- If you did not attend a consultation where you would have received estimates of your retirement benefits, use the online MyNYSTRS pension estimator to calculate a benefit estimate.
- Visit the Video Vault at NYSTRS.org and watch The Retirement Process and Your NYSTRS Benefit Payment: Making The Choices That’s Right For You.

SUMMER
- Thirty (30) days after your retirement date is the last day NYSTRS can receive an Election of Retirement Benefit (ER-34 6) form. If you need to change the payment choice you selected on your retirement application...
- Generally, if we receive your retirement application at least 30 days before your date of retirement, you should receive your first payment by direct deposit on the last business day of the month in which your retirement dates falls. If we receive your application closer to your retirement date, your first two payments would likely be made together on the last business day of the following month.

SPRING
- The filing period for a July 1 retirement begins April 2. You can file your application for retirement up to 50 days prior to your effective date of retirement or as late as the date of retirement. If you’re retiring to a non-service retirement (e.g., 30 years of service for Tier 2/4 employee), it may be best to file your application in mid-June to increase the odds your preliminary benefit calculation will include key milestone service.
- When filing for retirement, you must indicate your choice of the Maximum benefit or an option. Thoroughly review the difference between each before selecting. If you need clarifcation, call (820) 348-7298, Ext. 6250.
- File for retirement online in MyNYSTRS (age 55+)
- Thirty (30) days after your retirement date is the last day NYSTRS can receive an Election of Retirement Benefit (ER-34 6) form. If you need to change the payment choice you selected on your retirement application.

New York State Teachers’ Retirement System
Call NYSTRS
(800) 348-7298
Resigning from your employer does NOT automatically trigger retirement benefit payments.

Education Law Section 539 requires you file an Application for Retirement with NYSTRS in order to receive your monthly pension payment.
Thank you for your inquiry.

To retire, you must file a Service Retirement Application (RET-54, attached) with NYSTRS. You can mail this form to NYSTRS by U.S. mail, or file online through your MyNYSTRS account. By law, you can file as late as your retirement date, but no more than 90 days before. To be on the first available payroll after retiring, you should file at least 30 days in advance.

For NYSTRS' purposes, the effective date of retirement you enter on your NYSTRS retirement application must be at least one day beyond the last date you earned salary under contract. For example, if you last earn salary under contract on June 30, the earliest effective date of retirement you could select is July 1. New state laws impacting NYSTRS members are generally deemed to take effect no later than June 30 of the year the legislation is enacted. Therefore, if your retirement date is on or after July 1, you may still benefit from legislation signed into law later in the calendar year you retire.

You may withdraw a service retirement application or change your retirement date within 14 days after your retirement date. To do so, send us a secure message through your online MyNYSTRS account, or send a signed letter to NYSTRS by mail at 10 Corporate Woods Drive, Albany, NY 12211, or by fax to (518) 431-8789. You may change your option election by filing an Election of Retirement Benefit form (RET-54.6) with NYSTRS no later than 30 days after your retirement date. This form must be mailed.

If NYSTRS receives a document sent by registered or certified U.S. mail, we deem it filed on the postmark date. Otherwise, it is deemed filed on the date we receive it.

You can obtain NYSTRS forms on our website (www.nystrs.org/Forms), or by calling our 24-hour automated Hotline at (800) 782-0289.

If you have any additional questions, please write back or call us at (800) 348-7298. Thank you.

Information & Communication Center/
In Summary

Your Date of Retirement (DOR) must be at least one day beyond the last date you earned salary under contract.

File for retirement 0-90 days prior to your DOR. For a July 1 retirement, file April 2 at the earliest, and July 1 at the latest.

By law you have 14 days to withdraw or change your DOR (not to a retroactive date). For a July 1 retirement you can withdraw up to July 15.

By law you have 30 days to change your option. For a July 1 retirement, you can change your option up to July 31.
Video:
Filing for Disability Protection: What You Need to Know
If you are facing a potentially life-threatening illness or surgery, consider filing a disability application “For Protection Only.”

In most cases, the lump-sum payment a beneficiary would receive would be significantly more than the in-service death benefit.

A member filing for protection must complete the Application for Disability Retirement (RET-54.1) and Medical Information Summary (RET-54.1B).
Filing For Protection

The member would need to:

- Clearly write "For Protection Only" on the application.
- Leave the requested date of retirement blank.
- Indicate the medical condition necessitating the protection.
The member would need to:

- Clearly write “For Protection Only” on the application.
- Leave the requested date of retirement blank.
- Indicate the medical condition necessitating the protection.
- Select either the Declining Reserve Option (Tier 1 only) or Largest Lump Sum Option (Tiers 2-6).
- Have signature notarized prior to mailing.
Filing For Protection

The member would need to:

- Clearly write "For Protection Only" on the application.
- Leave the requested date of retirement blank.
- Indicate the medical condition necessitating the protection.
- Select either the Declining Reserve Option (Tier 1 only) or Largest Lump Sum Option (Tiers 2-6).
- Have signature notarized prior to mailing.
- Complete the Medical Information Summary.
Need More Information?

Call NYSTRS at (800) 348-7298.