NYS TRS

New York State Teachers' Retirement System

Get to Know NYSTRS

NYSTRS Pension Dollar*

Three funding sources make up the NYSTRS pension dollar: investment income, employer contributions and member contributions.

85¢ Investment Income

13¢ Employer Contributions

2¢ Member Contributions

Investment Income

NYSTRS' assets are invested in the most prudent manner possible to achieve optimum long-term total returns with an appropriate level of risk. The System is committed to an investment approach that focuses on thoughtful and prudent diversification of assets with liabilities often not payable for three decades or more.
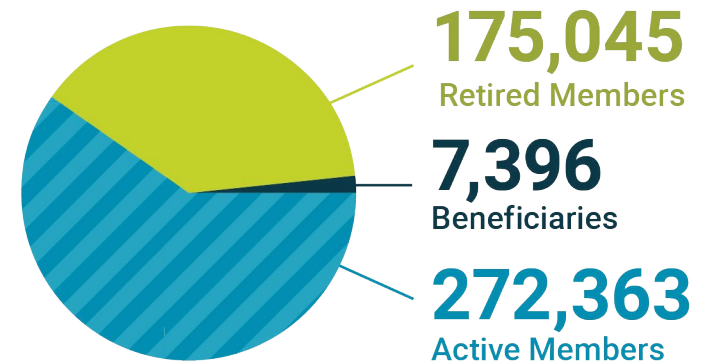
Employer Contributions

NYSTRS serves 828 employers – including public school districts, BOCES, institutions of higher education and charter schools that elect to participate. Each year, the employer contribution rate is set at the level necessary to properly fund benefits. These contributions have been collected without fail throughout the System's history.

Member Contributions

Members are required by law to contribute a percentage of salary, which helps fund their pension at retirement. As a defined benefit plan, members receive a lifetime pension based on these four factors: tier of membership; total service credit; age at retirement; and final average salary.

175,045 Retired Members

7,396 Beneficiaries

272,363 Active Members

454,804 Total Membership

Governance

Established in 1921 by the New York State Legislature, NYSTRS administers the fund from which New York state public school teachers and administrators (excluding those in New York City) receive retirement, disability and death benefits. A 10-member Board of Trustees sets policy and oversees System operations:

- Three teacher members
- One NYSTRS retiree
- Two school administrators
- Two present or former school board members, experienced in the fields of finance and investment (at least one must have experience as an executive of an insurance company)
- One present or former bank executive
- The State Comptroller or a designee

Trustees serve three-year terms, except the State Comptroller (or designee) who serves while in office.

*30 years ending June 30, 2024