



*To:
Chief School Administrators
College and University Presidents
District Contacts
Employer Secure Area Contacts*

Help Us Return Unclaimed Funds to Former Teachers

Teachers who left public school employment and ceased membership in NYSTRS are eligible for a refund of the member contributions they made to the System. NYSTRS currently has a list of more than 15,000 former teachers who have not withdrawn their contributions. We want to get those funds into the right hands – and we need your help.

NYSTRS is asking for your help locating the owners of these unclaimed and abandoned funds. You can assist by publicizing the existence of these funds to active and retired employees.

Please direct current and former employees to the [Unclaimed Funds page](#) at [nystrs.org](#). From there, they can search two lists: Unclaimed Funds and Abandoned Accounts. Both lists are searchable by name and last known teaching location.

Funds typically become unclaimed or abandoned when memberships cease due to insufficient service. Members must have a minimum of five years of service to vest with NYSTRS. To keep a membership active, a member with fewer than five years of service must work the equivalent of at least 20 full-time days in a school year in a NYSTRS-reportable position once every seven years.

When memberships cease, NYSTRS make every effort to contact these individuals and encourage them to withdraw contributions they made to the System. If efforts to reach them fail, their names are added to the Unclaimed Funds list. If the contributions remain unclaimed for 18 months, they are considered abandoned and added to the Abandoned Accounts list. These funds do not earn interest. Funds may be claimed at any time by the former member, their beneficiary or their estate.

Visit the [Unclaimed Funds page](#) of our website to search the lists and read instructions how to claim the funds.