



New York State
Teachers'
Retirement
System

Your Source

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

New Law Impacts Tier 6 Members

Newly enacted legislation lowers the age at which NYSTRS Tier 6 members can retire without an age-related reduction. [Chapter 58 of the Laws of 2026](#), effective April 1, 2026, also extends previous legislation pertaining to the calculation of Tier 6 member contribution rates.

Retirement Age Reduced

Under this new legislation, Tier 6 members who have at least 30 years of credited service may now retire as early as age 58 without an age-related reduction in benefits. Members who do not meet the 30-year service requirement may retire without a reduction at age 63.

Previously, Tier 6 members needed to be age 63 to retire without an age-related reduction in benefits.

Member Contribution Rate Calculation Extended

Tier 6 members have a two-year extension on the statute requiring their contribution rate to be determined using only their annual base wages.

An extension of legislation dating to 2022, the new law provides that compensation earned for extracurricular programs or other pensionable earnings for the school years ending June 30, 2026 through June 30, 2028 will not be included in the contribution rate calculation for those years. Although the contribution percentage rate for those years will be calculated only on annual base wages, Tier 6 members must pay the applicable contribution rate on all of their pensionable earnings in those years.

See the [Active Members/Member Contributions](#) page at nystrs.org for more information on how the rate is determined.



*Retirement
Age Reduced;
Contribution
Rate Calculation
on Base Pay
Extended Two
Years*

Delegates Needed to Fill Midterm Vacancies

A special delegate election is currently underway to fill tickets where both delegate and alternate positions are vacant. Elected by peers at their district, delegates serve two important functions: to serve as a liaison between NYSTRS and the members in their district and to elect a teacher member to the Retirement Board at the [Annual Delegates Meeting](#), which will be held on Nov. 1-2 at the Saratoga Springs City Center.

Check the [2025-2027 Delegates list](#) to find out who represents your school and to see if your employer has open delegate-alternate slots.

If your district or employer has an opening, consider running for a delegate or alternate slot. Delegates and alternates are elected as a ticket and must be filled together. Contact your employer to ask about plans for a special election.

The special election period runs through Oct. 1, 2026. Delegates and alternates elected will serve until the current term ends July 31, 2027. Your employer is responsible for reporting the election results to NYSTRS via the Employer Secure Area by Oct. 6. Any newly elected delegates and alternates begin serving as soon as election results are reported. If your election goes unreported, you won't be able to step into the role.

Learn more on our [Delegate & Election FAQs](#) page.

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10 Corporate Woods Drive
Albany, NY 12211-2395
nysters.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

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

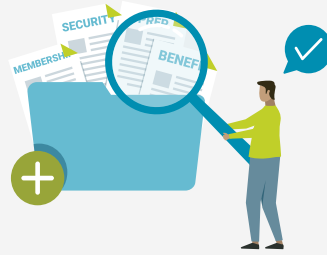
Fraud Complaint?
Email investigations@nysters.org or call the Report Fraud number listed above.

Never Miss an Issue
Your Source is produced four times a year with a once-annual printed edition in the spring. All other issues are online only. E-subscribe in your [MyNYSTRS](#) account to receive all issues.

NYSTRS Board Meeting Summary

Read the summary of actions from the Board's April 2026 meeting on the [About Us/Retirement Board/Board Meetings](#) page at nysters.org.

Four Fundamentals Your NYSTRS Benefits and the Law



Divorce Can Affect Your Benefit

Under New York law, a retirement benefit may be considered marital property. When a NYSTRS member divorces, a former spouse could be entitled to part of their benefit. In those cases, we require a court-signed domestic relations order (DRO) that specifies how the benefit will be divided.

Review our [DRO Guide](#) and online [DRO form](#). Then work with an attorney to ensure any proposed DRO meets NYSTRS requirements before it is submitted to the court. NYSTRS must review and approve DRO language before it can be implemented. Once approved and filed, NYSTRS will carry out the DRO as written.



A Power of Attorney Allows Someone to Act on Your Behalf

A Power of Attorney (POA) allows you to designate someone to handle financial and legal matters, including your NYSTRS benefits, on your behalf. A Special POA serves the same purpose but is specifically designed for retirement transactions at NYSTRS.

If you become unable to make decisions for yourself, a valid POA will allow your affairs to continue without interruption. The POA must be filed with NYSTRS for your agent to act on their behalf. Without one, a court may need to appoint someone to act for you.

Refer to the [Power of Attorney FAQs page](#) and use the System's [Special Durable Power of Attorney](#) Form to help you get started. Submit your POA to NYSTRS before it's needed to help prevent delays if your agent needs to act for you.



Make a Will – And Keep Your Beneficiaries Current

Your will and your NYSTRS beneficiary designation serve important but different purposes.

A will directs how the rest of your estate is distributed after your death. Without one, your estate may go through probate under state law, which can involve additional time and expense and may not reflect your intentions.

Your beneficiary designation controls who receives your NYSTRS benefits – regardless of what is written in your will. Keep your designation up to date in [MyNYSTRS](#) or via a [beneficiary designation form](#) to ensure your benefits are paid according to your wishes.



Laws Change. We'll Help You Stay Informed

The state legislature periodically passes laws that affect NYSTRS. NYSTRS administers the laws as enacted by the legislature; the System does not have the ability to change the benefit structure nor the authority to mandate benefit changes.

To stay informed, visit the [Legislation page](#) for updates on pending and enacted legislation that may affect your benefits.

Your Service Credit Matters

It's important to keep track of all the service credit for which you are eligible, at every stage of your career. Your total service credit affects both your eligibility for NYSTRS benefits and the amount you'll receive in retirement.

Service Credit Milestones Can Maximize Your Pension

Your service credit builds with each year you work for a NYSTRS participating employer. As you achieve certain service milestones, you become eligible for additional benefits that may affect the amount you'll receive in retirement. It's important to know about these critical service milestones – especially as you consider your retirement date.

A couple of examples:

5 YEARS	At five years of credit, your pension becomes vested, or guaranteed.
20 YEARS	At 20 years of credit, the pension factor used in the benefit calculation for Tiers 1-4 and Tier 6 increases.
25 YEARS	At 25 years of credit, the Tier 5 pension factor increases.
30 YEARS	At 30 years of credit, members may retire without an age-related reduction to their pension as follows: Tiers 2-4 at age 55, Tier 5 at age 57, and Tier 6 at age 58.

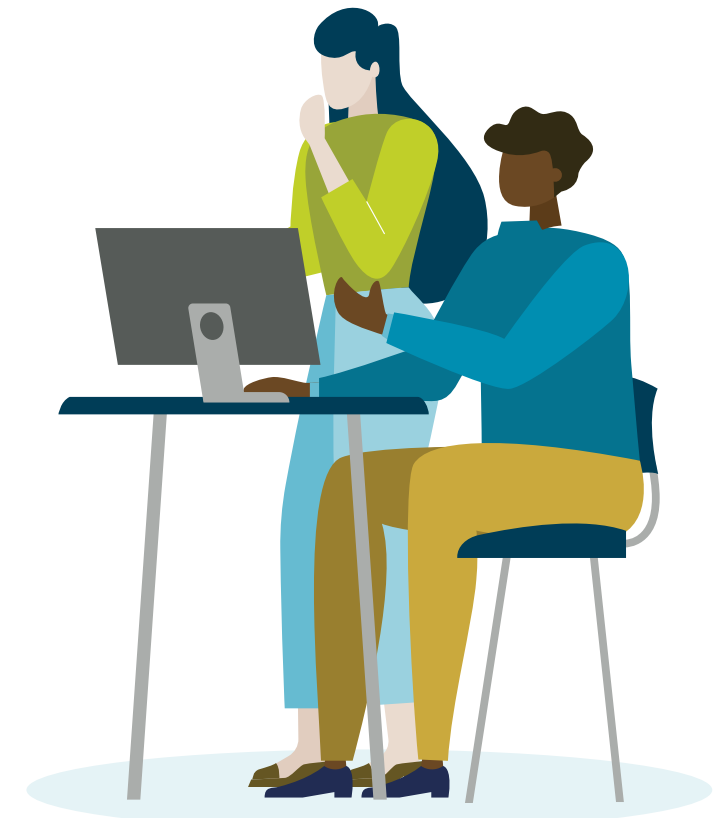
Track Your Service Credit With Your Benefit Profile

Know how much service credit you have by reviewing it at least annually.

Your *Benefit Profile*, which is always available in [MyNYSTRS](#), provides an annual overview of where your retirement stands based on your service credit, earnings and other key factors. It also includes your contact information and beneficiaries. Depending on your membership status and eligibility, your *Profile* may also include projections of service retirement benefits, disability and death benefit projections, a summary of your member contributions, and loan information (if applicable).

Review your *Profile* to verify your salary and service credit have been correctly reported to NYSTRS by your employer. If you notice an error, ask your employer to correct the records and to submit the revision to the System. Correcting any misinformation now will help expedite the processing of your benefits in the future.

Claim any uncredited prior service early to reduce the amount of interest due and to avoid delays in processing at retirement. Pursuing prior service early in your career is also important because some older records with your previous employer may only be available on paper, which may take time to locate.



Retire After a Service Milestone

If you're retiring near a key service milestone, be safe and work beyond the date you believe you will reach it. Miscalculating your credit or including time in your calculations that is not actually creditable could negatively impact your benefit – for life.

Take, for example, Eddie Educator. Eddie, a Tier 4 member, was ready to retire after 30 years of teaching. But before filing their retirement application, Eddie reviewed the service credit history in their *Benefit Profile* to confirm they had earned 30 years of service credit. Good thing they did – Eddie was just shy of the 30-year mark! Thanks to that review, Eddie delayed their retirement plans by a few months. As a Tier 4 member, this allowed them to avoid an age-related reduction to their benefit.

Tier 4: The Significance of One Year

Years of Service	29 Years	30 Years
Age	55	56
Final Average Salary	\$78,000	\$80,000
Pension Calculation	29 Years x 2% pension factor = 58%	30 Years x 2% pension factor = 60%
Age Factor	58% x .73 age factor = 42.34	no age factor (30+ years)
Maximum Annual Pension	78,000 x .4234 = \$33,025 Maximum Annual Pension	80,000 x .6000 = \$48,000 Maximum Annual Pension

Learn more about your final average salary and pension calculation in the [Active Members' Handbook](#) at nystrs.org.

Your Retirement-Planning Assignment



Learn about the various types of service credit and milestones in our [Active Members' Handbook](#) at nystrs.org.



Know where your retirement stands. Review your annual *Benefit Profile*.



Talk to a NYSTRS representative about your specific situation before filing for retirement.



Calendar of Events

June 2026:

- June 18 – Summer Hours Begin
- June 19 – System Holiday

July 2026:

- July 3 – System Holiday
- Summer PREP Seminars Begin

September 2026:

- Sept. 7 – System Holiday
- Sept. 9 – Summer Hours End
- Fall PREP Schedule Released

August 2026:

- Summer PREP Seminars Continue