

DESIGNATION OF BENEFICIARY

- ◆ If you wish to name more than three beneficiaries, please complete the *Designation of Beneficiary For In-Service or Post Retirement Paragraph 2 Death Benefit (NET-11.4)* form found on our website (NYSTRS.org) and submit with this application.
- ◆ If you wish to designate a custodian for a minor, a testamentary trust, an inter vivos trust, or a corporation, please contact us at (800) 348-7298, Ext. 6130 for instructions to properly complete the designation.
- ◆ For each beneficiary, be sure you have checked either primary or contingent.
- ◆ At least one beneficiary must be designated as primary.
- ◆ Contingent beneficiaries should be listed after the primary.
- ◆ Do not number beneficiaries.
- ◆ List all requested information for each beneficiary. For married women, use their given name (Mary Smith not Mrs. John Smith).
- ◆ An unborn child may not be named as a beneficiary.
- ◆ If you wish to name your estate as beneficiary, please write "MY ESTATE" on the beneficiary name line. We also suggest that you contact your tax advisor to determine if this designation is in your best interest.
- ◆ Percentage allocations for each category (primary or contingent) must equal 100%. Only whole number percentage designations are allowed.
- ◆ If your beneficiary designation is deemed invalid, we will update your beneficiary as your estate until a valid designation is filed.

DEATH BENEFIT ELECTION

Each new member of the Retirement System has death benefit coverage under Paragraph 2 of Section 606 of the Retirement and Social Security Law.

The Paragraph 2 death benefit is payable if death occurs while in active service. It provides one year's salary after a year of member service, increasing each year to a maximum of three years' salary after three or more years of member service. The benefit is reduced after age 60 by 4% per year, up to a maximum reduction of 40% at age 70. (Reductions begin at age 61; age is not rounded and the reduction is not prorated.)

Paragraph 2 also provides a survivor benefit after retirement. The death benefit in effect at the time of retirement is reduced to 50% during the first year of retirement, 25% during the second year of retirement, and 10% of the benefit in effect at retirement, or at age 60 if higher, for the third and future years.

Once we receive your membership application, we will send you an acknowledgement letter. To learn more about your membership, we urge you to read *Your First Look at NYSTRS* and the *Active Members' Handbook*, which are available in the Library at NYSTRS.org.

NYSTRS is required by state and federal laws to collect personal information and maintain records to ensure an accurate calculation of any benefits that may be payable. This information is disclosed only where authorized by law. Failure to provide all necessary information may interfere with timely payment of benefits.

NYSTRS' Privacy Policy identifies and describes the types of information collected and how the information is used. The complete policy is available at: <https://www.nystrs.org/Privacy-Policy>. For questions regarding the policy, email communit@nystrs.org or write to NYSTRS, Attn: Education & Outreach, 10 Corporate Woods Drive, Albany NY 12211-2395.

QUESTION 1

If you have an active membership in one of the NYS or NYC public retirement systems shown below but are no longer working in a position reportable to that system, you may be eligible to transfer that membership to NYSTRS. A transfer will bring all of your service credit, member contributions (if any) and original date of membership to your new NYSTRS membership.

NYS/NYC public retirement systems from which a transfer of membership is possible:

New York State and Local Retirement System (866-805-0990)
Teachers' Retirement System of the City of New York (888-869-2877)
NYC Board of Education Retirement System (800-843-5575)
New York City Employees' Retirement System (877-669-2377)
New York City Police Pension Fund (866-692-7733)
New York City Fire Pension Fund (718-999-1189)

To request a transfer, please obtain forms and instructions from the appropriate retirement system(s) noted above.

QUESTION 2

If you are receiving a pension from any NYS or NYC Retirement System, you may need to suspend your monthly benefit to be eligible for a membership in this System. We strongly urge you to contact that system to determine the impact any employment may have on your retirement benefit.

QUESTION 3

If you held a former membership in a NYS or NYC public retirement system, you may be eligible for reinstatement to an earlier date of membership. You will receive the service credited under that membership, provided it is not credited to another system, along with any possible advantages of an earlier tier. By answering **YES** to question 3, we will review your eligibility for reinstatement and advise you accordingly. If you are reinstated to a Tier 1 or 2 membership, there will be no cost to you and you will no longer be required to make member contributions. However, if you are reinstated to a Tier 3-6 membership, there is a cost associated with the reinstatement.

Article 19 of the Laws of 2000 eliminates mandatory contributions for any Tier 3 or 4 member once the member has attained 10 years of service or 10 years of membership. If reinstatement of your earliest date of membership meets the requirements for Article 19, you will be eligible to have contribution deductions stopped after your reinstatement has been fully processed. We will notify your employer to stop withholding contributions effective **July 1 of the school year in which your reinstatement payment was received by the System.**

Generally, it is to your advantage to be reinstated to an earlier date of membership. **However, there are situations where it may not be in your best interest to elect reinstatement.** We urge you to contact NYSTRS at (800) 348-7298, Ext. 6250 to discuss the details of your reinstatement with a System representative.

Note: By checking YES you are electing tier reinstatement. A tier reinstatement election is irrevocable.

QUESTION 4

You may be eligible to receive prior service credit for NYS public service (full-time, part-time, or substitute work), including NYC, if such service was credited or would have been creditable in a NYS public retirement system. Visit our website at NYSTRS.org to obtain our claim and verification forms.

As a Tier 6 member, the following service is not creditable in our System:

- ◆ Out-of-state teaching service;
- ◆ Service for private or parochial schools, for the federal government or in armed forces dependent schools; or,
- ◆ Non-public service.

After the prior service has been verified and you have earned a minimum of two years of credit under this membership, you should contact us for the cost of purchasing any allowable service. The cost to purchase prior service for Tier 6 members is 6% of the salary received during the period of verified service plus 5% interest per year.

Credit cannot be allowed for any service for which you are now receiving a benefit or for which you will be eligible to receive a benefit from any other public retirement system, or the federal government.

Note: It is not necessary to check a box if all service was credited to a former membership AND you have elected tier reinstatement by checking box 3.

QUESTION 5

To initiate your claim for military service with this System, you will need to provide documentation that specifically lists **all** the following information:

1. Date of entry or enlistment into active duty.
2. Date of discharge or terminal date of active service.
3. Character of service.
4. Years, months, and days of active duty service.

This information is often found on form DD 214, Armed Forces of the US Report of Transfer or Discharge. If you do not have this required documentation, you may be able to obtain it by contacting:

National Personnel Records Center
Military Personnel Records
1 Archives Drive
St. Louis, Missouri 63138
Phone: (314) 801-0800
www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records