Benefits report

A publication of the Teachers' Retirement System of the City of New York

trsnyc

Fall 2025

1099 Forms Coming in January

It's a little early for tax preparation, but here is a preview of what you can expect from TRS for your 2025 tax reporting.

1099 forms will be mailed in late January to all members who received a distribution from TRS in 2025. Forms for withdrawals and other lump-sum distributions will be mailed first, followed by forms for pensions and other recurring payments. So, you may not receive all your forms at once.

All 1099 forms are also posted for online viewing in the secure section of our website, normally by February 1. TRS will notify you by email when these forms are posted, and the online versions will probably be available before you receive your copies in the mail. We will announce on our website, automated phone system, and social media channels when the 1099 forms will be available.

To view the forms online, simply log in at www.trsnyc.org and go to **Documents ► 1099 Forms**. Forms for 2024 and earlier years are still available.

There's more information in our *1099 Forms* brochure. We're in the process of updating the brochure, and a new version will be ready for the new year. You can access it on our website. Go to www.trsnyc.org ► **Publications** ► **Brochures** ► **Distributions**.

Reply to Retirement Allowance Verification Mailings

If you receive a request from TRS for "proof of life" documentation, please respond in a timely manner. As reported in the Spring issue of *Benefits Report*, TRS occasionally sends verification mailings to ensure that the intended retirees are receiving their monthly benefit payments.

Retirement allowance verification letters are mailed to the address on file with TRS, and a copy is also available to view in the secure section of our website. Log in at **www.trsnyc.org** and go to **Documents ► Correspondence**. Please note that TRS will not send the request for "proof of life" information by email.

No Cap on Earnings in Schools until 2027

Retirees who work in public schools in New York State do not have to worry about earnings limits or special waivers—at least until 2027.

Normally, an annual cap of $35,000 applies to service retirees under age 65 who work in public employment within New York State. But since 2022, earnings from work for public school districts (or BOCES) have been exempt from that limit. A recent New York State law extended the exemption through June 30, 2027.

For more information about how post-retirement employment could affect your TRS pension, read our *Earnings After Retirement* brochure.

TRS Introduces a Roth Option

Beginning in January, TRS is expanding its Tax-Deferred Annuity (TDA) Program to include a Roth option for in-service members. Retirees are not eligible to participate, but working members will have another way to build retirement savings with TRS.

In a Roth account, contributions are deducted from net (after-tax) pay. Since taxes are already paid on these funds, Roth contributions and earnings grow tax-free, and they are generally not taxed when received as a distribution.

In the traditional TDA account, contributions are deducted from gross (pre-tax) pay, lowering the current tax liability. Taxes are deferred on TDA contributions and earnings, and the funds are taxed only when members receive them as income—normally after retirement.

There are currently no plans to allow members to convert traditional TDA accounts to Roth accounts.

Mark Your Calendars

Each month, TRS sends retirement allowance payments by Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) no later than the last business day of the month. See the 2026 payment schedule below.

Payments for the months of January, February, May, July, and October will be transmitted on the day before a weekend or holiday, so your funds may not be available in your account until the following Monday. Please contact your financial institution if you have questions about the timing.

Reminder: Your financial institution, not TRS, determines the date your funds will be available in your account.

2026 Pension Payment Schedule	
January 30 (Friday)	**July 31** (Friday)
February 27 (Friday)	**August 31** (Monday)
March 31 (Tuesday)	**September 30** (Wednesday)
April 30 (Thursday)	**October 30** (Friday)
May 29 (Friday)	**November 30** (Monday)
June 30 (Tuesday)	**December 31** (Thursday)

If you receive your retirement allowance payments by check, please note that checks are mailed two business days before the end of each month.

However, there is no guarantee when you will receive your check in the mail. That's one reason TRS strongly recommends all members sign up for electronic payment in the secure section of our website.

For more information, read our *Electronic Fund Transfer* brochure.

2025-2026 COLA Set at 1.2%

New York State's updated Cost-of-Living Adjustment, or COLA, took effect in September's retirement allowance payments for eligible retirees. The new COLA is 1.2%, providing a maximum increase of $16 per month for eligible members.

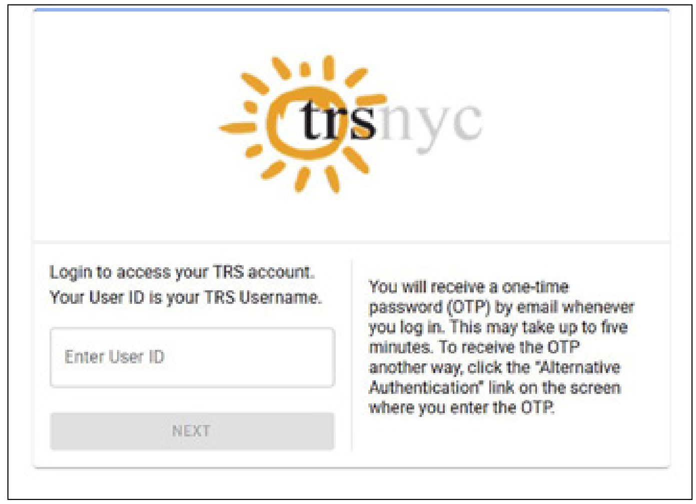
Created in 2000, the annual COLA is based on 50% of the change in the Consumer Price Index for the year as of March 31. The amount can range from 1% to 3% and is calculated based on the lesser of an eligible retiree's fixed maximum retirement allowance or $18,000.

For details on COLA eligibility, visit our website and search the FAQs section for "COLA."

Login Tips

Visiting the secure section of **www.trsnyc.org** is the best way to stay on top of your TRS accounts. But logging in is a multi-step process—for your protection.

Start with the **LOGIN/REGISTER** button at the top right corner of any page on our site; then click **LOGIN**. You will see a screen to enter your Username (also known as User ID) and then a screen to enter your Password. After that, you will need to enter a one-time password (OTP), which will be sent to you by email.



This screen is the first step of the login process.

It may take a few minutes before you receive the OTP, so please wait before requesting another one. If you do need to request another OTP, you can choose "Alternative Authentication" to receive it by phone or text message. But the first OTP will always be sent by email, so make sure the address you have on file with TRS is one that you can access easily!

Lock Up Your Login Credentials

Cyber-crime is on the rise. So, you need to be extra careful when accessing your TRS account. Follow these tips when you visit the secure section of our website:

- Guard your login credentials. Never share your TRS account (or bank account) information.
- Make sure the software on your computer and phone are up to date.
- Create strong account passwords and use Multi-Factor Authentication for better protection.
- Be on high alert for online and phone scammers. Verify, then Trust.
- Report suspicious activity to TRS immediately.

New to TRS' Website?

If you've never logged in to the secure section of TRS' website, you're missing out. Here's how retired members can register for online access at **www.trsnyc.org**:

- In the upper right-hand corner of the screen, click **LOGIN/REGISTER**.
- Click **REGISTER NOW**.
- Select "TRS Member." Then click **NEXT**.
- Enter your TRS retirement number, Social Security number, date of birth, and last name. Then click **NEXT**.
- Select a username and a password. Then click **NEXT**.
- Enter an email address and a primary and secondary phone number.
- Check the TRS Privacy Statement box to accept the terms of access. Then click **FINISH**.
- Check your email for a validation message from TRS. Then follow the instructions to complete your registration.

Note: Registration isn't complete until you respond to a validation email you'll receive from TRS. If you don't see this within a few minutes, check your spam folder.

Back to School with TRS

Sign up for an online educational program this fall or winter! Below are class descriptions and a schedule of offerings over the next few months. These classes are all virtual (on Zoom), but we will resume in-person classes—at the newly dedicated Melvyn Aaronson Member Education Center—in 2026.

Advance Planning for Retirees: A review of timely topics such as beneficiary designations, Required Minimum Distributions, and online access to TRS accounts.

Death Benefits After Retirement: An explanation of the death benefits payable after a retiree passes away.

Required Minimum Distributions: A step-by-step guide to filing your Required Minimum Distribution election from your TDA account (for retirees who have reached age 73).

Reviewing Your Benefits Letter: An examination of the detailed letter TRS sends new retirees to describe their retirement allowance calculation. Great for new or recent retirees!

Retiree Website Tour: A walk through the online features available in the secure section of our website, such as payment information, account statements, beneficiary designations, and access to your TRS accounts.

TDA Options After Retirement: An overview of your options for your TDA post-retirement, including leaving your account invested with TRS, as well as withdrawing, rolling over, or annuitizing it.

- **Required Minimum Distributions** Last Chance for 2025!
  Tuesday, October 28, 2025 (11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)
- **TDA Options After Retirement**
  Monday, December 8, 2025 (3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.)
- **TDA Options After Retirement**
  Tuesday, December 23, 2025 (3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.)
- **Death Benefits After Retirement**
  Tuesday, January 6, 2026 (11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)
- **Advance Planning for Retirees**
  Tuesday, January 13, 2026 (11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)
- **Reviewing Your Benefits Letter**
  Tuesday, January 20, 2026 (11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)
- **Retiree Website Tour**
  Tuesday, January 27, 2026 (11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)

As a reminder: all classes are free, but advance registration is required. Visit our website's **Educational Programs** page (www.trsnyc.org ►**Resources** ►**Educational Programs**), click on the link for one or more of the above offerings, and fill out the registration form before classes fill up. See you in class!

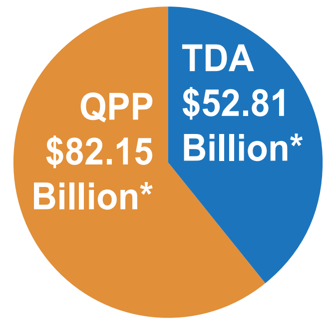
TRS Investment Results: 6/30/25

TRS offers two plans to members.

All members participate in the Qualified Pension Plan (QPP), a defined-benefit plan that is funded by employer and member contributions.

TRS also administers a Tax-Deferred Annuity (TDA) Program, a supplemental defined-contribution plan. The TDA Program is funded by member contributions.

Total Investments



**As of 6/30/2025 (unaudited)*

TRS Passport Funds

TRS' Passport Funds are available to all TDA participants and members in Tiers I and II for a portion of their funds in the QPP.

For more recent investment results, please visit **www.trsnyc.org ▶ Investments ▶ Investment Returns**. For more details about the Passport Funds, please review our annual *Fund Profiles* booklet.

Annualized Investment Returns

Name of Fund	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year
Fixed Return Fund (TDA/UFT)*	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%
Fixed Return Fund (All Others)*	8.25%	8.25%	8.25%	8.25%
Diversified Equity Fund	14.41%	17.58%	14.02%	10.77%
Balanced Fund**	9.08%	7.65%	4.93%	N/A
International Fund	14.10%	13.81%	9.96%	6.80%
Sustainable Equity Fund	11.09%	19.80%	14.27%	12.87%
U.S. Equity Index Fund**	14.78%	18.60%	16.37%	N/A
International Equity Index Fund**	18.01%	13.52%	10.30%	N/A

* Returns for the Fixed Return Fund are set by New York State Law. Currently, members affiliated with the United Federation of Teachers are credited with 7% annually on TDA investments in the Fund. Other members' TDA investments in the Fund, and any member's QPP investments in the Fund, are currently credited with 8.25% annually. For retirees and annuitants who have Fixed Return Fund investments, the guaranteed return is factored into their monthly payments. Members' allocations to the Fixed Return Fund are invested with TRS' Pension Fund.

** 10-year investment returns are not available for the Balanced Fund (began on 1/1/2018) or U.S. Equity Index and International Equity Index funds (began on 1/1/2020).

Five-Year Fund Performance vs. Benchmarks

-0.30%	**Diversified Equity Fund** vs. Hybrid Benchmark
-1.00%	**Diversified Equity Fund** vs. Global Market Composite Benchmark
-0.12%	**Balanced Fund** vs. Composite Benchmark
-0.04%	**International Equity Fund** vs. Composite Benchmark
-3.88%	**Sustainable Equity Fund** vs. Composite Benchmark
0.50%	**U.S. Equity Index Fund** vs. Dow Jones U.S. Total Stock Market Index
0.10%	**International Equity Index Fund** vs. MSCI ACWI ex-US IMI Net Index

A Golden Anniversary of Sorts

New York City endured a terrible fiscal crisis in the mid-1970s.

"Ford to City: Drop Dead" Does that *Daily News* headline ring a bell?

This fall marks the 50th anniversary of the New York City fiscal crisis that TRS played a small role in helping to resolve. Here's a recap:

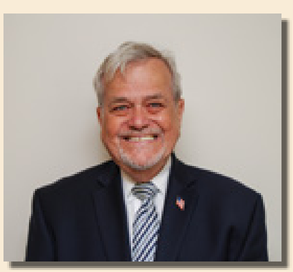
In 1975, the City was suffering through a severe economic downturn, facing high unemployment and inflation, lost industry and jobs, and deep debt after years of fiscal mismanagement. Worse, the City was unable to borrow additional money to improve its standing.

The low point was October 17, 1975, as Mayor Abe Beame was preparing to announce the City's bankruptcy. A $453 million debt payment was due that day, but the City could pay only a fraction of that amount. Hours before the payment deadline, after intervention from teachers' union President Al Shanker, the Teachers' Retirement Board agreed to a $150-million bond purchase that rescued the City from immediate disaster.

In the days that followed, the City continued to appeal for help from the State and Federal Government. It was President Gerald Ford's refusal to "bail out" New York City that prompted the infamous headline. Eventually, New York State agreed to loan funds but took greater control of the City's finances. The Federal Government also later agreed to loan the City $2.3 billion, requiring the City to balance its budget by 1978. Another difficult chapter followed, as the City implemented a financial plan that featured higher taxes, mass layoffs, and new financial controls.

While it was a collective effort to save New York City from bankruptcy, the board of the Teachers' Retirement System played a crucial role at a pivotal time—a historical milestone worth remembering.

Honoring Mel Aaronson



In a ceremony on May 15, TRS named our Member Education Center in honor of Melvyn Aaronson, longtime trustee of the Teachers' Retirement Board. Mr. Aaronson attended the event at TRS, along with current and former Board members, and former colleagues from TRS and the United Federation of Teachers.

Mr. Aaronson, known to all as Mel, served on the Teachers' Retirement Board from 1980 through 2015, the last four years as Chairman. TRS Executive Director Patricia Reilly remarked that Mel led with wisdom, vision, and heart during his long tenure. "He helped to strengthen this institution in ways that continue to benefit our members every day."

To attend a program in the Melvyn Aaronson Member Education Center, sign up at **www.trsnyc.org ▶ Educational Programs**. See page 5 for a schedule of online classes. On-site classes will be available in 2026. Many of the topics we cover in our programs—from retirement readiness to our Tax-Deferred Annuity Program—were championed by Mr. Aaronson throughout his career. Thank you, Mel!

Teachers' Retirement System of the City of New York
Public Information Office
55 Water Street, New York, NY 10041

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Does TRS have the correct mail and email address for you? Log in to www.trsnyc.org to check and make updates!

Publications

View past newsletters, our financial reports, and brochures at **www.trsnyc.org ▶ Publications**.

Recent updates: *Benefits in Brief*

Calendar

October 31, 2025: Deadline for Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) filings. Members who are due an RMD for 2025 will receive a payment at the end of December if they do not file an election by this date.

November 2025: Posting of Quarterly Payment Statements for the third quarter of 2025.

January 1, 2026: Effective date of investment election changes received by **November 1, 2025** (QPP changes, TDA annuitant changes) or **December 1, 2025** (changes for deferred TDA accounts).

January 2026: Expected distribution of 1099 forms for any distributions made from members' TRS accounts in 2025. See page 1.

February 2026: Posting of Quarterly Payment Statements for the fourth quarter of 2025.

TRS offices will be closed to observe official New York City holidays on the following dates: **November 4, 11,** and **27, December 25, 2025,** and **January 1, 19,** and **February 16, 2026**.

Use the TRS website to get early access to this newsletter and other communications from us.

Stay informed between issues of *Benefits Report*. Please follow TRS on social media.