



Board of
Education
Retirement
System

Securing your financial future today

Spring 2023



OUTSTANDING LOANS AT RETIREMENT

Borrowing funds from your retirement accounts can be very helpful when you need those last minute funds for tuition or repairs on your home. It's also convenient that the payments come directly from your payroll check, so you don't have to work out how to combat another bill. But, did you know it's equally important to make sure your loans are paid up before retirement?

If you have an outstanding pension loan when you file for retirement, you will have two choices on how to fulfill the required repayment: 1. You can make a lump sum payment in the full amount of the outstanding loan balance (a.k.a. liquidate the loan) or 2. You can elect to have the outstanding loan balance deducted from your ASF or MCAF account, which represents your accumulated contributions. If you choose to have the balance deducted from your ASF or MCAF account, you will have no out-of-pocket expense; however, the amount of your pension benefit will be reduced. The reduction to your pension benefit is a permanent reduction and continues for as long as you receive pension payments. If you have an outstanding pension loan and choose to retire without paying this loan off, the balance of the loan will be considered a distribution and you will receive a 1099R for the taxable portion of the distribution. This

amount will also be reported as income to the Internal Revenue Service. You may have to pay income tax on the distribution amount. To make a lump sum payment to pay off the loan, you can let your BERS Benefit Examiner know during your retirement appointment or you can contact BERS to request a lump sum payment amount and the payment due date.

At any time after retirement, you have the option of repaying the original loan balance which was outstanding at retirement; this repayment will increase your pension effective on the day that the loan is repaid.

If you have an outstanding TDA loan at retirement, and you elect to withdraw or to annuitize your TDA, your outstanding TDA loan balance will be considered a distribution for tax purposes. BERS will issue a 1099R for the taxable amount of the distribution. If you choose to elect TDA Deferral status, you will have the option to either continue making payments for your outstanding loan balance or to distribute the remaining outstanding balance. If you are interested in completing the repayments, make sure to let your BERS Benefit Examiner know while you are filing for retirement. A request for direct payment coupons must be made to BERS within 60 days of leaving service. ■

RETIREMENT ON THE MIND?

Have you reached retirement age and are ready to hang up the hat? Then now's the time to visit the BERS service center and submit your paperwork! We know that filing for retirement can feel overwhelming, but our BERS Benefits Examiners are here to help. Contact BERS by email at brespon@bers.nyc.gov, by secure message in our Member Self-Service Portal, or by phone at (929) 305-3800 to schedule an appointment with a Benefits Examiner. You can also walk in without an appointment, Monday – Thursday from 9 am to 2 pm, to meet with an available Benefit Examiner.

When you meet with your Benefit Examiner, make sure to ask about the following:

- Purchasing previous service
- What to do with your TDA account at retirement
- Updating your Beneficiary Designations
- How to file for your health benefits
- How to set up direct deposit for your Pension Check
- What happens to your Outstanding loans



After decades of working you deserve the opportunity to rest and enjoy the next stage of your life. Meet with a BERS Benefit Examiner and let us help you start the next chapter of your life. ■

BERS FINANCIAL REPORTS ISSUED

BERS' Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), was issued for fiscal year 2022 and is available on the BERS website. The FY2022 ACFR showcases the combining results for the Qualified Pension Plan (QPP Program) and the Tax Deferred Annuity Program (TDA Program). An unqualified opinion was issued by Grant Thornton, LLP, the BERS' independent auditors recruited by the City of New York, regarding the combining financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. This opinion indicates that the combining financial statements issued by BERS present fairly, in all material respects, the net position of the fiduciary as of June 30, 2022 and 2021 and the changes in the fiduciary net position for the years then ended, in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In addition, we are proud to announce that BERS has been awarded the Certificate of Excellence in Financial

Reporting by Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). This is the thirty- sixth consecutive year that BERS is a recipient of this prestigious national award. The Certificate of Achievement recognizes conformance with the highest standard for preparation of state and local government financial reports. Thank you to all the staff of the Actuary, the Comptroller, and BERS who worked closely on preparation of these reports.

During 2022, BERS' assets stood at \$9.49 billion and BERS' staff serviced approximately 60 thousand members. The QPP's net position restricted for benefits was at \$5.88 billion while the TDA's net position restricted for benefits was \$2.74 billion for the year ended June 30, 2022.

For more detailed information about the main drivers of the increase in BERS' net position, we invite you to visit our website www.bers.nyc.gov.

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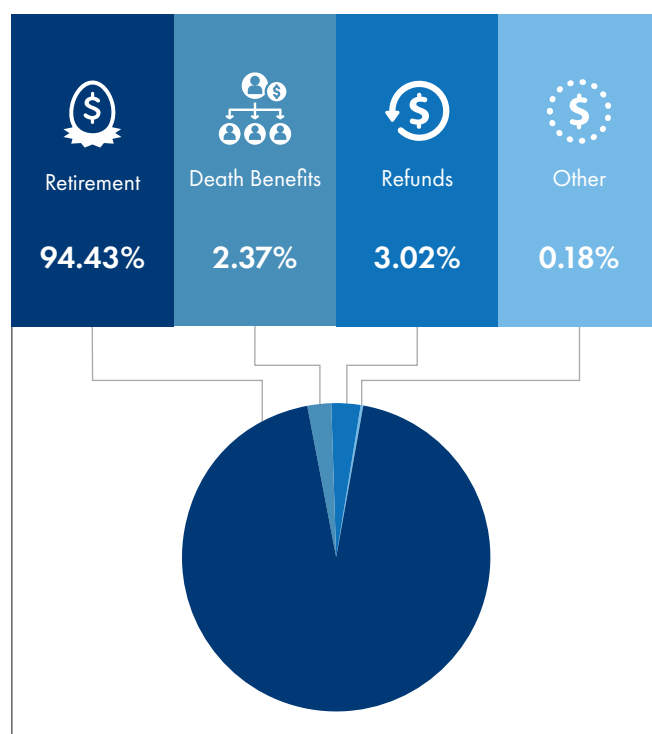
QPP Fiduciary Net Position

June 30, 2022, 2021, and 2020

(In thousands)

	2022	2021	2020
Assets:			
Cash	\$ 7,556	\$ 12,920	\$ 977
Receivables	212,230	304,182	195,190
Investments, at fair value	7,991,279	8,958,857	6,915,714
Collateral from securities lending	541,760	794,242	452,087
Other	319,776	464,473	242,160
Total assets	9,072,601	10,534,674	7,806,128
Liabilities:			
Accounts payable	63,581	78,462	32,441
Other liability	-	-	-
Payable for investment securities purchased	204,459	436,597	166,434
Accrued benefits payable	12,621	13,150	12,884
Due to the TDA Program's Fixed return fund from the System	2,374,096	2,167,983	1,959,392
Payables for securities lending	541,760	794,242	452,087
Total liabilities	3,196,517	3,490,434	2,623,238
Net position restricted for benefits	\$ 5,876,084	\$7,044,240	\$5,182,890

QPP Benefit Payment Category



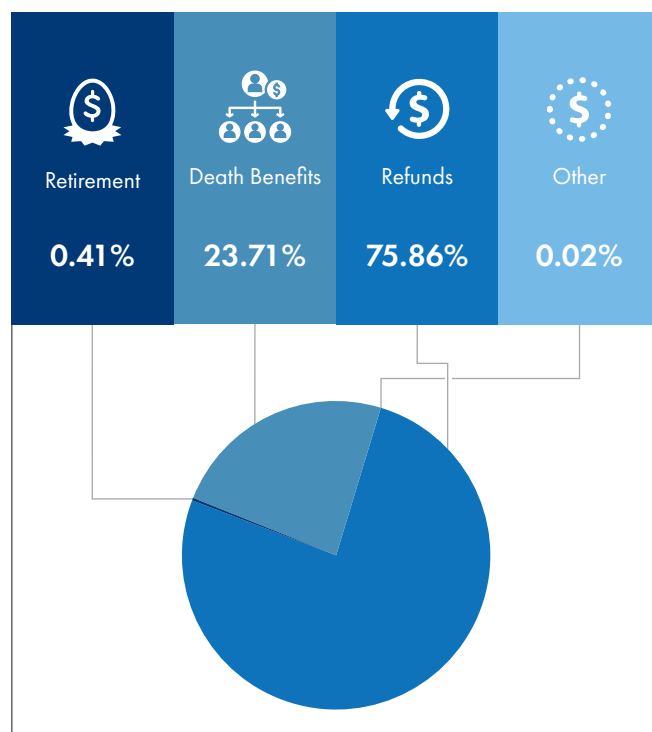
TDA Program Fiduciary Net Position

June 30, 2022, 2021, and 2020

(In thousands)

	2022	2021	2020
Assets:			
Cash	\$ 556	\$ 407	\$ 398
Receivables	48,802	46,345	44,400
Due to the TDA Program's Fixed return fund from the System	2,374,096	2,167,983	1,959,392
Investments, at fair value	602,475	754,622	540,275
Collateral from securities lending	34,684	35,039	3,480
Other	-	-	-
Total assets	3,060,613	3,004,396	2,547,945
Liabilities:			
Accounts payable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other liability	269,491	414,297	195,228
Payable for investment securities purchased	529	168	711
Accrued benefits payable	8,681	11,174	11,776
Payables for securities lending	34,684	35,039	3,480
Total liabilities	313,385	460,678	211,195
Net position restricted for benefits	\$ 2,747,228	\$2,543,718	\$2,336,750

TDA Benefit Payment Category



5 STEPS TO A HEALTHY RETIREMENT

We know for many of you retirement is a long way off, but that doesn't mean that planning should be on hold until you are closer to it. Whether your planning to travel the world or stay active in your local neighborhood, it's important to begin planning today for a healthy retirement.



Step 1: Plan your retirement

Will you dust off the passport and check out the Louvre Museum of Paris? Have you decided to stay local and help teach kids an after school game of Chess? Are you planning to retire and help care for the grandkids? Whatever you have in mind for your retirement, it will require that you start planning for that, today.

The first step in your planning process will be to enroll in the BERS Pension Plan, if you haven't already. Once enrolled you will know how many years of service you will need to complete to be eligible for retirement. At this point, think about what you want life in retirement to look like. Will working the minimum years required help you reach that dream retirement life? If not, figure out how long you will need to be employed and how you can maximize your savings during this time. Thinking about what you want that chapter of your life to look like will help you develop goals that can lead you there.

Step 2: Check your income

Experts suggest that you will need approximately 70 to 80% of your pre-retirement income to cover your expenses during retirement. Once you've outlined your goals, review your current income and expenses. Are there expenses that

can be lowered or removed altogether? Will you need to supplement with savings? Many BERS members are able to participate in the BERS Tax Deferred Annuity (TDA) program or the Office of Labor Relations 457 Deferred Compensation plan. Both plans are an excellent way to supplement retirement income. Unlike the pension plan, you get to decide how much you want to contribute and where you want to invest your money to maximize your savings. If you see that your budget alone will not help make ends meet in retirement consider participating in one of these programs to help meet your financial goals.

Step 3: Check in on your health

To make it to that next chapter in your life, it's important to take care of your health today. NYC offers the NYC Work Well program to help you improve your physical well being and the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to help with your mental health. To live your best life, you must prioritize you today.

Make sure you also know what you will do for health insurance in retirement. NYC employees may be eligible for health benefits in retirement, but you will need to make sure you complete a required amount of credited service in order to be eligible. For more information of health benefits at retirement and eligibility, check out the Office of Labor Relations (OLR) website.

Step 4: Get social

Are you following BERS on social media yet? If not, hit that follow button! In addition to our monthly reminders, BERS is committed to delivering content to help you navigate your way to a well deserved healthy retirement. In the next few months we will be rolling our tutorials to help with understanding retirement and the pension plan on our YouTube channel, so make sure you check us out.

Step 5: Stay in contact with BERS

BERS offers an unlimited number of consultations to discuss your retirement at no cost to you. Reach out to a BERS benefit examiner to help discuss your goals and plans for retirement. Our benefit examiners will let you know eligibility requirements and what you need to do to meet your goals. ■

SO WHO YOU GONNA CALL?



At BERS, we love that our members contact us for all their benefit related questions, but we know your time is precious. Although we are worth the wait to speak to, we want to help cut down your phone waiting time, so we rounded up the most common phone numbers you have asked us for. Check out the chart below!

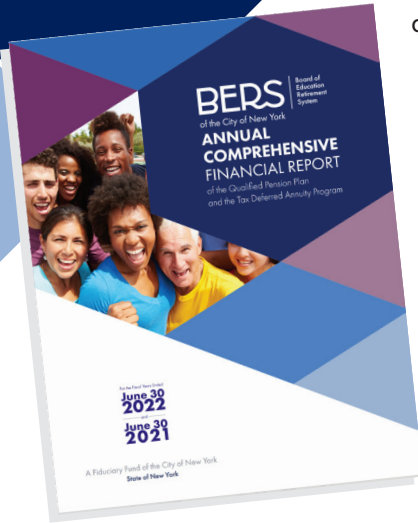
AGENCY	CONTACT INFORMATION
NYC Deferred Compensation Plan	Phone: (212) 306-7760 Outside NYC: (888) DCP-3113 (888) 327-3113
New York City Employees Retirement System (NYCERS)	Phone: (347) 643-3000 (877) 669-2377 – If calling from outside the New York City area (toll-free) (347) 643-3501 – TTY (hearing impaired)
New York City Teacher’s Retirement System (NYCTRS)	Phone: 1 (888) 8-NYC-TRS Email: AskTRSNYC@trs.nyc.ny.us
United Federation of Teacher’s (UFT)	Phone: (212) 331-6311 (In Service Members) Phone: (212) 331-6314 (Retirees)
District Council 37 (DC37)	Phone: (212) 815-1000
DC37 Health and Security Plan Benefits	Health and Security Plan’s Inquiry Unit: (212) 815-1234 Retiree Toll Free Number: (877) 323-7738 from outside the NY-NJ-CT area
NYC DOE HR Connect	Phone: (718) 935-4000 (for inquiries re: leaves, benefits, & general HR questions)
NYC DOE Employment Verification	https://infohub.nyced.org/working-with-the-doe/current-employees/employment-verification
Organization of Staff Analysts	Phone: (212) 686-1229
Office of Labor Relations (OLR) Retiree Health Benefits	Phone: (212) 513-0470 10 am and 4 pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays
Medicare	Phone: 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)
NY State and Local Retirement System (NYSLRS)	Phone: (518) 474-7736 (866) 805-0990 (long distance within the U.S., Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands)
NY State Teachers Retirement System (NYSTRS)	Phone: (800) 348-7298 Email: communit@nystrs.org
The Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 237	Phone: (212) 807-0555
International Union of Operating Engineers (Local 891)	Phone: (718) 455-9731

BERS UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

In the last 100 years, BERS has provided retirement and financial security for thousands of New York City employees and we hope to continue to do so for the next 100 years. In an effort of continuous improvement, BERS will continue to remain transparent in its business practices.



Stakeholders, Members, and Retirees can visit our YouTube channel to view our Board of Trustee, Executive Committee, and Audit Committee meetings. In these videos, you will be able to see a recording of the meetings and how decisions filter down to our daily operations.



In addition to our YouTube Channel, you can visit our website and check out the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) on our Publications page. The ACFR provides a understanding of BERS financial activities for the respective fiscal year.

On our website's About Us page, you can find our updated Agency policies. BERS has also created a Resources section on our Plan Information page to help our members locate information tear sheets. ■



Service Center

65 Court Street, 1st Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201

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65 Court Street, 16th Floor, Brooklyn, New York 11201

Executive Office

55 Water Street, 50th Floor, New York, NY 10041

Call Center hours

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