

NYCERS

RETIREMENT AND BENEFITS

Tier 4 SPD Updates

UPDATED JULY 20, 2005

This is a glimpse of all that has changed since the last printing of the Tier 4 Summary Plan Description booklet. The most recent version of this update can always be found online under Plans and Updates at www.nycers.org. For more information about recent legislation that has affected NYCERS, please refer to the Legislation page of our website.

Tier 4 SPD Updates

Board of Trustees

Milton Aron replaces John J. Murphy as Acting Executive Director

Pg. 2 - Web Site

NYCERS web site has been changed to: www.nycers.org.

Pg. 3 - Tier 4 Plan

There are now nine Special Occupational Group Programs. The latest Plan added is: Police 911 Communications (911 Operators) New Plan eligibility at a glance:

The 911 Communications Operators/25 Year Plan is available only to members employed by the New York City Police Department as: police communications technicians, supervising police communications technicians, or principal police communications technicians.

For more details on this Plan, read NYCERS brochure #941 (Tier 4).

Pg. 5 - Social Security Participation

For the Calendar year of 2005, the maximum salary subject to FICA is \$90,000.

Pg. 6 - Purchasing Previous Service

Replace the statement "You may file a request to purchase Previous Service as long as your membership in NYCERS is still active." with "You may file a request to purchase Previous Service as long as you are in Active Service. (Vested members are not eligible to purchase previous service)."

Pg. 7 - Service Credit

Transit Authority 457 Deferred Compensation Plan is now administered by FASCorp and can be reached at: 866-682-7567.

Pg. 9-10 - Military Service Credit

If you purchase military time under Chapter 548 of the Laws of 2000 and that service credit does not increase your retirement allowance or death benefit, any payments (with interest) will be refunded by NYCERS.

Pg 16-19 - Loans

The Patriot Plan suspends a member's obligation to repay any loan while the member is absent on Military Status. The law is effective through July 1, 2006, unless extended.

The other updates in this section are too lengthy to capture here. To get the most up-to-date information you can either download the loan brochure or the loan form from our web site, or you can order a hard copy by calling our automated phone system at 347-643-3000.

Pg. 27 - Service Retirement Process

The NYC Transit Health Benefits number has been changed to: 347-643-8550.

Section 212 Limitation

The maximum earnings for 2004 are \$27,500.

Pg. 28 - Service Retirement Dollar Limitations

The 2005 IRS Section 415 Limits are:

<u>AGE</u>	<u>IRS Sec. 415 Limits</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>IRS Sec. 415 Limits</u>
55	\$101,550	59	\$135,108
56	\$108,850	60	\$145,621
57	\$116,822	61	\$157,205
58	\$125,544	62	\$170,000

Excess Benefit Plan

An excess benefit plan provides benefits to pensioners whose annual retirement benefit are limited by section 415.

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Pg. 37 - Disability Retirement

The income limitation for Disability Retirement is the following:

2003-	\$22,600
2004-	\$23,300

The period of time was lengthened for TBTA members to pay off deficits incurred.

The retirement age for certain TBTA members has been reduced. This expands the covered period of employment performed on or before 12/31/06 (previously the covered period ended 12/31/04).

Pg. 38 - Disability Retirement

$\frac{3}{4}$ Performance of Duty Disability Presumptive Heart Disease for EMTs—Heart Bill provides a presumption that a disease of the heart was incurred in the performance of duty.

$\frac{3}{4}$ Accident Disability for Sanitation—This creates a $\frac{3}{4}$ Final Average Salary Accident benefit for eligible Tier 4 members.

Heart Bill for Sanitation-- This creates a presumption that eligible members who developed heart disease after appointment incurred that disease in the performance of duty.

$\frac{3}{4}$ Accident Disability for Deputy Sheriffs-- This creates a $\frac{3}{4}$ Final Average Compensation for certain members employed as Deputy Sheriffs.

WTC- Disability Bill-- This creates a presumption that eligible members/retirees who develop pre-defined qualifying conditions or health impairments can file for disability. A precursory notice MUST be filed no later than June 13, 2007

Pg. 57 - Vested Retirement Benefit (Dispatcher)

There was a typographical error the Vested Retirement benefit is computed as 2% of Final Salary times years of Allowable Service as a Dispatcher Member.

Pg. 59 - AMCs are Mandatory (EMT)

There was a typographical error - the amount of AMCs you are required to contribute is 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ % of gross wages each payroll period for all service as an EMT member rendered on and after December 8, 2000.

Prior EMT Service Transferable to Police Pension Fund: Certain Service immediately preceding service in the police force now counts towards retirement eligibility.

Pg. 60 - Vested Retirement Benefit (EMT)

There was a typographical error - the Vested Retirement Benefit is computed as 2% of Final Salary times year as Allowable Service as an EMT member.

Accidental Death Benefit (EMT)

Certain EMT members now have performance-of-duty accidental death benefits.

Final Medical Review (EMT)

Final medical reviewis now available for EMT members who are eligible to receive a performance of duty disability under RSSL §607-b.

Pg. 64 - Service Eligibility (Automotive)

New titles and corresponding new eligibility dates have been added since the printing. For the most up-to-date and thorough explanation, download the Automotive Brochure, #932.

Pg. 66 - Deficiency (Automotive)

A member who has not paid in full any contribution deficiency will still be entitled to a Service Retirement Benefit or Vested Service Retirement Benefit. However, the benefit will be reduced according to an actuarial

Pg. 41 - Survivor Benefits

Eligible vested members receive a death benefit that is one half of the Ordinary Death Benefit that would have been payable if the member had died on the last day of service upon which his or her membership was based.

The special accidental death benefit for Correction Officers, Housing and Transit Police, certain EMTs and TBTA members was increased by 3% or more for deaths that occurred in 2005 or earlier.

Pg. 44 - Service Eligibility (Sanitation)

There was a typographical error in the second bullet of the Eligibility. The date should be July 24, 1992.

Pg. 53 - Service Retirement Benefit (TBTA)

Members on or after October 28, 2003 will use their Final Average Salary to calculate each year of Credited Service in excess of 20 years, maximum 30.

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formula that takes into account any deficiencies in the AMCs.

Refunds (Automotive)

A person who has rendered less than five years of service may withdraw their AMCs.

Pg. 68 - Service Eligibility (Special Officer)

New titles and corresponding new eligibility dates have been added since the printing. For the most up-to-date and thorough explanation, download the Special Officer Brochure, #934.

Pg. 69 - AMCs Mandatory (Special Officer)

There was a typographical error - the required amount of AMCs you must contribute is 6 ¼% of gross wages each payroll period for all service as a Special Officer Member rendered on and after December 19, 2001.

Pg. 71 - Tier 4 with Tier 3 Rights Contributions

Members are required to pay 3% of Wages for first 10 years of service.

Pg. 72 - Tier 4 with Tier 3 Rights Service Retirement

You must have five years of Credited Service to be eligible for a Tier 3 Early Service Retirement benefit.

Pg. 79 - Taxation

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Pg. 87 - Glossary

Final Average Salary: If the salary earned during any year included in the calculation of a member's FAS exceeds the average of the previous two years by more than 10% the amount in excess of 10% is excluded from the computation.