

To All PEC Members:

The 2024-25 NYS Budget has been passed.

Almost two years ago, NYPSEC formed the Sub-committee on Tier Equity (since renamed Tier Enhancement) for the purpose of enhancement of the pension benefits available to our newer members. We believed that this was necessary so we could have a stronger voice at the table, and I am pleased to report that, not only did we have a strong voice, but we had several meetings with the governor's top staff members and leaders of both houses to advance our goals. I am also pleased to report that the fruits of our labor have been successful.

The New York State budget was passed Saturday, which included the amending of the pension systems throughout the state to include that Tier 6 and Tier 3a members final average salary calculations were modified to change the look-back from 5 years to 3 years. This is a huge win for our younger members. Furthermore, another piece of the final budget contained a section of law regarding the calculations that is used to determine how much Tier 6 members are required to contribute into their pensions will exclude overtime, which likely will lower the amount they contribute. This measure has been in effect for the past two years, and now will be extended for two additional years.

I would like to thank our Legislative Committee and Sub-committee on Tier Enhancement Chair Pete Paterson who worked tirelessly with me and our Legislative Director Bing Markee, along with all the members of the Tier Enhancement Committee for their efforts to get this done. We, collectively, put in a significant amount of hard work in order to achieve these results.

This is also the result of many organizations working together to achieve these pension enhancements. I want to thank Governor Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Speaker of the Assembly, Carl Heastie and the many legislators in both houses for supporting these changes. This will definitely help the recruitment and retention of public employees.

However, we know our work is not done, and we plan to move forward in seeking additional tier enhancements in the future.

In Unity,
Peter D. Meringolo
Chairman