BERS
Board of Education Retirement System
of the City of New York

ANNOUNCEMENT

Information for Gulino Claimants

If you are a claimant in the *Gulino* class action and have been advised by your attorneys that you will be receiving pension relief from BERS, please review this posting for an overview of the pension relief process.

BERS begins the review of your case upon receipt of a data file from the DOE, containing details of your counterfactual service and salary. Based on this data, BERS will calculate the cost of pension contributions that you would otherwise have made. You will be responsible for 84% of the principal (including both basic contributions and, if you are a participant in an early retirement plan, additional member contributions). This cost is known as your Required Contribution amount.

After BERS has finished calculating your Required Contribution amount, BERS will send you a letter by regular post and certified mail, notifying you of the amount owed. **If you wish to take advantage of pension relief, you must make full payment of your Required Contribution amount within 90 days of the mailing of this letter, or within 90 days of your receipt of an initial back-pay payment from DOE, whichever is later.**

If BERS receives your Required Contribution amount in a timely fashion, BERS will make updates to your service credit and salary history, reflecting the counterfactual service and salary you are entitled to under the terms of the *Gulino* Pension Order.

Once your service credit and salary history have been updated, the next step will depend on your payroll status:

1. If you are **still in active service:** No further action will be necessary. The additional service credit and salary history may result in a higher benefit when you retire.
2. If you are **already retired**: BERS will recalculate your pension benefit to reflect the additional service credit and salary history. This **recalculation may take up to 6 months to complete**, depending on the complexity of your case. If your pension amount increases, you will also be entitled to a lump sum payment equal to the difference between your original pension amount and your recalculated pension amount, retroactive to the date of your retirement and brought current with interest. Please allow an additional **1 to 2 months for processing of the retroactive lump sum**.
3. If you are **separated from BERS**: Once you meet the age and service qualifications to retire, BERS will reach out to you and advise you of your eligibility. If you are uncertain about your eligibility, please contact BERS at the email address below.

You may refer **any inquiries** about the **status of your *Gulino* pension relief** to berslegal@bers.nyc.gov.

Please note that BERS cannot offer legal advice or answer other questions about the *Gulino* litigation. For more information, please contact the *Gulino* Plaintiffs' attorney at the address below:

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Published 09.11.2025