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New Jersey City University supports employees in planning for their future retirement needs through participation in the State of New Jersey public employee pension programs. All eligible employees are required to participate in either the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) for permanent full-time classified staff or the Alternative Benefit Program (ABP) for full-time faculty, adjunct faculty and administrative staff. Additional voluntary programs are also available.

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The State of New Jersey established the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) in 1955 to replace the former State Employees' Retirement System. The Division of Pensions and Benefits is assigned all administrative functions of the retirement system except for investment.

The PERS Board of Trustees has the responsibility for the proper operation of the retirement system. The Board consists of six employee representatives, the State Treasurer, and two individuals appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Board meets once a month. A PERS member who wishes to be a candidate upon a vacancy for the PERS Board of Trustees must be nominated by petitions bearing the signatures of 500 active members. Nominating petition forms,