

MREA is the only advocate exclusively for Greater Minnesota school districts. Under the leadership of school board members, administrators, teachers and community members, MREA focuses on what puts first the education, growth and development of learners to bring about our best possible future.



## LEADING ADVOCACY FOR GREATER MINNESOTA STUDENTS

### In 2015

- Secured Long-Term Maintenance Funding (LTMF) with a 3-year phased in equalized levy
- Reduced agricultural land valuation in equalization for Long-Term Maintenance Funding
- Gained new funding for American Indian students
- Extended one-time Teacher Development and Evaluation funding to service cooperatives, education districts and other cooperatives
- Established new loan forgiveness program to attract teachers to the profession

### Closing the Donut Hole

School districts continue to benefit from MREA's leadership and advocacy for a highly equalized \$300 board-approved levy and closing the Donut Hole with up to \$424 additional school board LOR authority for the lowest funded districts.

**Success is not achieved alone.** MREA partners with a variety of advocates to help put students first. Learn more about what we're achieving together and get a full progress report at [MnREA.org/ProgressReport](http://MnREA.org/ProgressReport)

### In 2016

- Gained legislative approval and awaiting Governor's signature:
- 40 percent Ag 2SchoolTax Credit for voter-approved school construction bonded debt
  - \$2 million increase in loan forgiveness for teachers
  - \$385,000 to initiate para-to-teacher program at Southwest State
  - \$3 million for ONLINE18: A Northwest Regional Partnership, a pilot program for Higher Learning Commission required content credits for concurrent enrollment teachers
  - \$900,000 for Northwest Mobile Manufacturing Lab
  - Metro equity "bump" to all districts, driving upwards of \$15 per pupil for many rural schools
  - \$35 million for rural broadband expansion grants

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**“I want to express my profound gratitude to MREA for promoting this new [LTFM] revenue source. I think your work and the resulting legislation are exemplars of grownup governance. Keep it up!”**

Phil Grant, Superintendent, Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley

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I am very happy that we became a member of MREA. I am impressed, in particular, with the webinars that update us on what is happening at the capitol. It is apparent we have a great lobbyist in Sam. I appreciate your responsiveness to concerns that I have had in the short time I have been with MREA.”

Bob Indihar, Superintendent, Moose Lake Schools

## Ways We Connect with Members

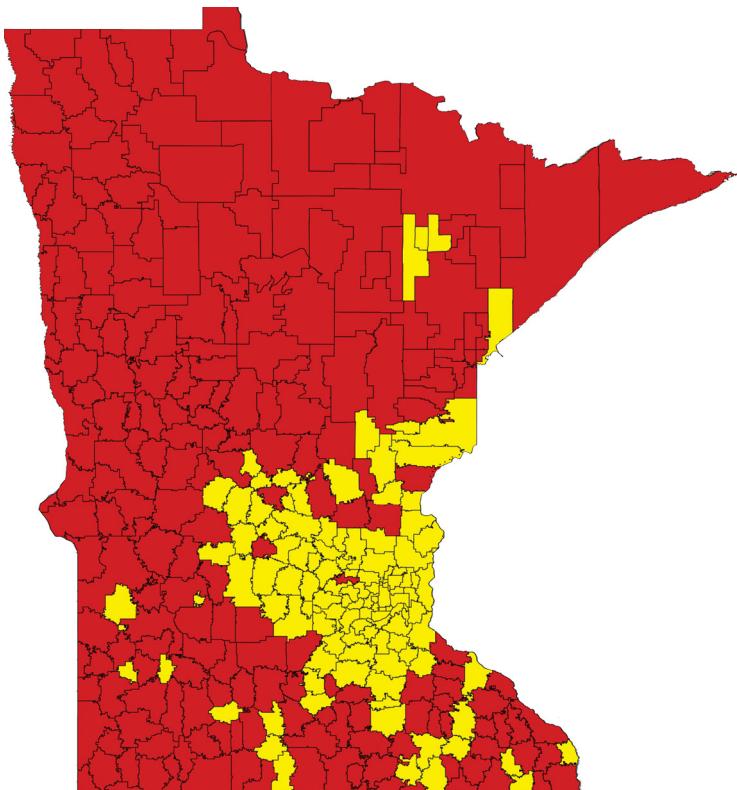
- Weekly insider briefings on key issues and news
- Action Alerts to help you effect change on issues
- Email alerts when key legislation is passed with its impact
- Interactive maps and analysis that illustrate the impact of an issue on district, regional and state level
- Lobbyists focused on key issues impacting schools
- Capitol Insider Blog honing in on key issues facing schools and the impact
- Professional development and networking at Annual Conference in November
- Regional meetings to discuss issues and connect with other school leaders
- Lower ACT prep costs for districts through partnership with John Baylor Test Prep
- Social Media Partnership Project on using social media to connect with parents and the communities

Learn more at [MnREA.org](http://MnREA.org)

98%

OF MEMBERS RATE MREA'S  
COMMUNICATIONS AS EFFECTIVE

Where education policy affects rural education, MREA identifies, analyzes, tracks and advocates for it on behalf of rural education.



■ MREA Member School Districts

In addition to Greater Minnesota School Districts, MREA members include:

- Service Cooperatives
- Minnesota Education Districts Association
- Special Education Cooperatives
- Colleges & Universities
- Businesses & Nonprofits
- Individuals