

**Leading Advocacy for Greater Minnesota Students.** 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.



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## IN 2017

MREA's advocacy helped to:

- Add 2% and 2% to the education formula
- Expand Voluntary Pre-K funding with new School Readiness Plus (SR+) program
- Establish tiered teacher licensure
- Expand statewide support for concurrent enrollment teacher credentialing with \$375,000 annually for four years
- Secure \$500,000 one-time funding for teacher loan forgiveness in FY 2018
- Gain an additional \$20 million in broadband expansion grants



## AG2SCHOOL TAX CREDIT FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES

School districts across Greater Minnesota are seeing the benefits of a new Ag2School 40% agriculture credit for school facility bonds.

## IN 2018

MREA led and collaborated to gain legislative approval to:

- Include cooperatives in safe schools revenue and recognition of the role of rural cooperatives
- Address growing SPED cross subsidy issue in student funding through a re-insurance solution that maintains better equity in formula
- Remove statutory impediments to members of rural cooperatives to remodel, lease, build, and maintain specialized school facilities for specialized instructional programs and facilities for high-need students

MREA participated in collaborative efforts to urge the legislature to:

- Stabilize TRA defined-benefit retirement plan through shared responsibility of the state, teachers and retirees
- Increase safe schools revenue, establish a minimum for smaller districts, and open avenues to remodel facilities for security, including flexibility in Long-Term Facility Maintenance and grants
- Expand broadband grants to under served rural communities to provide home access to high-speed Internet
- Reduce the number and scope of numerous new proposed mandates
- Continue to fund School Readiness Plus districts past the 2018-19 school year
- Stop proposed constitutional amendment to take a projected \$362 million from the state's general fund permanently and assign it to road projects

“Thank you for your watchful eye at the Capitol and your diligence watching for legislation that largely affects rural Minnesota schools. Without your voice at the Capitol, we would not have anywhere close to the support that is needed for rural schools throughout the state of Minnesota.”

David Fjeldheim, Superintendent, Sebeka School District