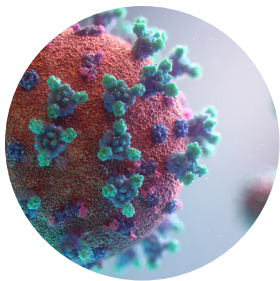




ACCOMPLISHMENTS



RESPONDING TO COVID-19

MREA became a resource for schools in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic with training for school leaders, planning guides, news updates and other key tools.



AG2SCHOOL TAX CREDIT FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES

School districts across Greater Minnesota are seeing the benefits of a new Ag2School 50% agriculture credit for school facility bonds, scheduled to increase to 70%.

IN 2020

MREA's advocacy helped to:

- Preserve funding for Special Education and other categorical programs despite service interruptions due to distance learning
- Extend renewal deadlines for teacher licenses
- Provide fund transfer authority to school boards for fiscal years 2020-21
- Reduce youth vaping by raising the age to buy all tobacco products to 21
- Provide maps and analysis on broadband accessibility and advocate for expediting access for distance learning with federal COVID-19 relief funds
- Promote local flexibility and improve clarity in COVID-19 guidelines

MREA worked with the Legislature to introduce bills and actively lobbied to:

- Continue full funding for concurrent enrollment credentialing through 2023
- Provide school districts financial tools to address cooperative facility needs for specialized services for high need students
- Fund three regional "Grow-Your-Own" (GYO) teacher initiatives
- Provide enhanced debt service equalization for newly consolidating districts
- Extend expiring operating referendums for one year in response to COVID-19

IN 2019

Some of the outcomes from MREA's advocacy include:

- Increase the Ag2School bond credit percentage
- Maintain full funding for concurrent enrollment credentialing in 2019-20
- Continue funding for rural Career & Technical Education consortia
- Increase state share of operating referendum revenue
- Secure \$40 million Border-to-Border Broadband grants

“MREA has been the leading organization providing leadership and resources for schools throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. These resources have been valuable tools that have led to effective planning and implementation of programs in our schools and communities.”

Dr. Chris Mills, Superintendent, Stephen-Argyle Central



ADVOCATE

- Weekly insider briefings on key issues
- Lobbyists at the Capitol every day
- Interactive maps and analysis showing the impact of a change on your district
- Action alerts to help you affect change



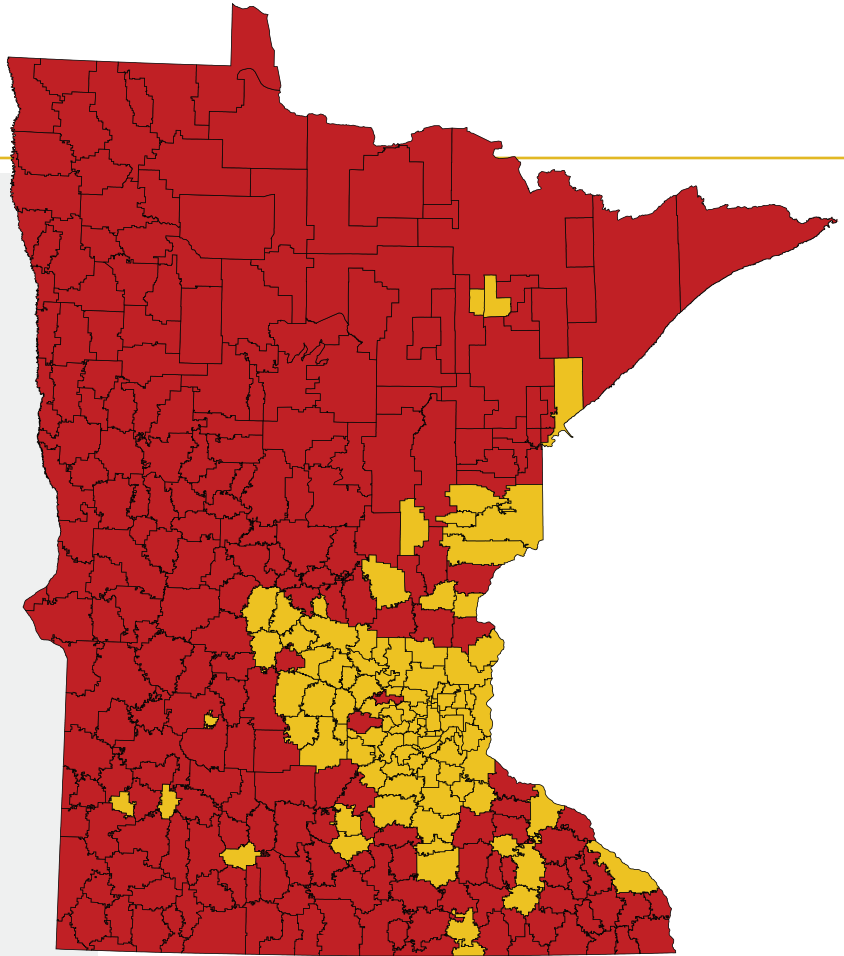
EDUCATE

- Professional development and networking at Annual Conference
- Regional and virtual meetings
- Discounts on partner programs such as OnToCollege and Coteacher



SUPPORT & RECOGNIZE

- Awards for teachers and innovative school programs
- Promotions that elevate rural schools and teachers
- SchoolGuard insurance risk program
- Crisis Communications Program



■ MREA Member School Districts



CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF PUTTING LEARNERS FIRST

For 35 years, MREA has brought a unified voice to rural education and been a constant advocate for students. We're celebrating the work and outcomes.

Learn more at: MREAVoice.org/history

