

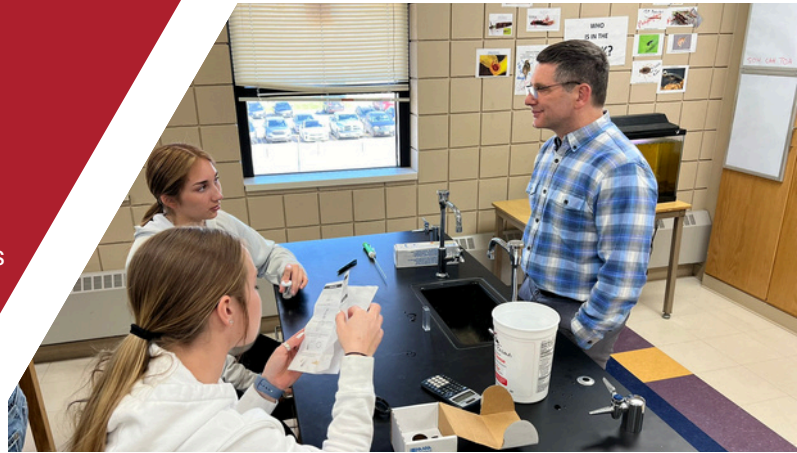


Voice For Greater Minnesota Education

2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

MREA advocates on behalf of about 237 school districts, 30 education cooperatives and over 100 associate members across Greater Minnesota to provide educational opportunities and close achievement gaps in Minnesota.

Platform approved by MREA Membership Dec 2024.



Minnesota's Public Schools are struggling to attract and retain staff. Funding a system of schools is a primary duty of the State legislature and Governor. MREA is calling on state officials to improve educator compensation, making the profession more attractive, through several legislative actions.

KEY ACTIONS NEEDED

IMPROVE TEACHER COMPENSATION

- Establish a Teacher Compensation Adjustment Revenue program aimed at improving teacher salaries.
- Improve TRA by either lowering the combination of the normal retirement age and total years of service OR minimizing the reduction in retirement benefits paid before normal retirement age
- Make QComp an open and standing appropriation so all schools qualify
- Amending the Grow Your Own application requirements so more rural districts can qualify
- Providing direct underwriting to state colleges for teacher preparation programs so those credits are free to undergraduates seeking teaching degrees

FUND WHAT HAS BEEN MANDATED

- Increase the Basic Formula allowance by "3&3" over the forecast base for FY 26-27
- Shore up Compensatory Aid as Direct Certification is used solely to calculate this revenue stream
- On-going state funding for Unemployment Insurance
- Additional funding for the Read Act

CLOSE FUNDING GAPS

- Increase LTFM revenue and allow roofs & pavements to qualify for levies above \$100,000
- Increase Local Optional Revenue to \$974/pupil
- Create Seasonal & Recreational Property Tax Base Replacement Aid to reduce the cost of voter approved operating levies where the state is collecting Seasonal & Recreational property taxes
- Improve all equalization formulas to 125% of the tax base used/pupil
- Expand VPK to provide service for all low-income 4-year-olds
- Ensure minimum revenue guarantees for small schools & educational cooperatives when categorical funding streams are used to promote programs

POLICY FLEXIBILITY, NOT MANDATES

- Create flexible pathways to licensure, in addition to broader licensure categories
- Oppose unfunded mandates and "one-size-fits-all" education policy
- Oppose additional course requirements for graduation