

# Belonging to Education Minnesota: Why it matters

Working in union as Education Minnesota gives educators the strength to make meaningful and equitable improvements for students, our profession, public education and our communities. We are powerful when we have a collective voice.

## A voice for public education

Our voices are elevated and heard when we join together as Education Minnesota. All educators – no matter their position or title -- should have a seat at the table when decisions are made about our classrooms, schools, campuses, profession and public education. Students' needs are why we do this work; children are the center of everything we do.

## An advocate for your career

Advocating for students' needs and improving our working conditions aren't competing interests—they are interconnected. Together, we can bargain for enough pay and benefits to sustain a family and win the time and training to constantly improve as educators. When we prioritize the wellness of workers, our students receive a better educational experience.

## A place for professional growth

As educators, we value and promote educator quality and professional development. It's up to us to help each other grow in our professions and prepare students for the future. Being a part of Education Minnesota means hundreds of frequent, diverse and valuable trainings for educators, by educators, across the state.

## Champion for our students and communities

We value those who came before us who fought for the rights of all Minnesotans. Educators are preparing their students, no matter what they look like or where they're from, to pursue their dreams in a more diverse America by eliminating systemic racism, gender discrimination and poverty. By joining together with nearly 90,000 educators across Minnesota, we have the power to make change.

## Where do my dues go?

Back to you and your colleagues through four key areas of the union's work.

43%

**Advocate for your career:** Negotiating contracts, improving local learning and working conditions and fighting for fair wages and benefits.

10%

**Professional growth:** Hundreds of local, regional and statewide trainings.

17%

**Voice for public education:** A voice in policymaking and lawmaking at the local, state and national level.

5%

**Champion for our students and community:** Establishing positive relationships with our allies and the community.

The rest—25 percent—goes toward union governance and infrastructure. That includes rent, utilities, equipment and tech support for 17 offices across the state. Education Minnesota is governed by three officers and a 52-member governing board elected by members to ensure the union's goals and priorities are driven by members.

[www.educationminnesota.org](http://www.educationminnesota.org)

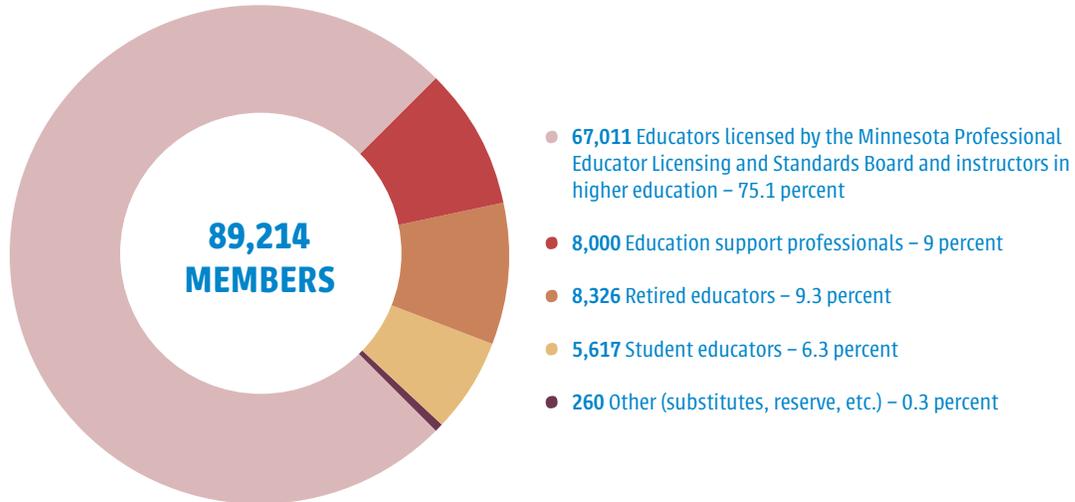
*Education Minnesota is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association and AFL-CIO.  1984*



**THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL  
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS**

## Who is Education Minnesota?

From preservice teachers who are studying to enter the profession to retired educators who still work through the union to support colleagues in the classrooms, lunchrooms and college lecture halls, Education Minnesota spans generations in academic settings.



Education Minnesota is made up of 467 local unions. Each is organized to meet the specific needs of members in their job settings and communities.

## Our history

Education Minnesota was formed in 1998 when the Minnesota Education Association and the Minnesota Federation of Teachers merged. MEA, originally called the Minnesota State Teachers Association, started in 1861. MFT began as the Grade Teachers Organization in 1898.

Education Minnesota is affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association and the AFL-CIO. Through your membership, you belong to these organizations that partner to provide a unified voice for public education and educators.