

# Education Minnesota programs and offerings: What's new, what's different?

As we face a new environment in a post-*Janus* world, Education Minnesota is responding by making changes and adding new programs that will help us thrive going forward. This booklet outlines the major changes leaders will see in the programs and offerings from Education Minnesota, and the points of contact in each area.

## Core professional development training

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Members will see a heightened emphasis in training offerings on voluntary unionism in a post-*Janus* world. Additionally, to reflect member interest in racial and social justice, members will be able to choose from a number of racial equity professional development sessions. For the first time this year, locals and IOs can request a training to meet a specific need, even if the training is not listed in the Core Trainings booklet.

*Contacts: Shirley Roeber [shirley.roeber@edmn.org](mailto:shirley.roeber@edmn.org) or Alison LaBree Whittlef [allison.labreewhittlef@edmn.org](mailto:allison.labreewhittlef@edmn.org)*

## CVENT registration

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CVENT will become the preferred tool for all Education Minnesota and IO event registration. The CVENT system will allow Education Minnesota to verify the membership of participants and limit event registration to members only. Attendance at members-only events will become another benefit of belonging to the union.

*Contact: John Ward [john.ward@edmn.org](mailto:john.ward@edmn.org)*

## Education Minnesota app

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Members can download a smaller, mobile version of our website that will allow them to access information, view their membership card, see a calendar of events and more - all from on their smartphone with the new Education Minnesota app. The app is available free from your app store.

*Contact: Sarah Cooke [sarah.cooke@edmn.org](mailto:sarah.cooke@edmn.org)*



## ESI programs

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**Member benefits/members-only plans:** ESI has worked with its sponsored member-benefits providers to ensure only verified members can participate in member-benefit programs.

**Workshops at Education Minnesota field offices:** ESI will conduct most financial and retirement planning workshops at local field offices. Members will feel a stronger connection to the local and it will provide an opportunity for local leaders or staff to greet members at the beginning of the workshop and discuss local contract benefits as they pertain to retirement planning. Conducting the workshops at local field offices is also economical.

**New ESI brochure:** A new ESI brochure for 2018-19 will outline changes and additions to ESI programs. These brochures are included in back-to-school materials sent to locals.

**New Zebit purchase program:** Members can purchase products such as electronics, furniture, toys, appliances, jewelry and more and pay for them over time, interest free with no credit checks or fees.

**Identity theft plan enhancements:** Members will enjoy more features of the already complimentary identity theft recovery plan for members. Lost Wallet is now part of the plan, which assists in terminating and re-ordering wallet contents should they be lost or stolen. The upgraded identity theft protection plans now include credit bureau monitoring, social network monitoring, PayDay loan monitoring and more.

**Membership card/identity theft:** The welcome letter from Education Minnesota President Denise Specht includes a “punch out” laminated membership card with each member’s membership number. On the back of the card, there is information on registering for the complimentary identity theft recovery plan.

*Contact: Shelley MacDonald [shelley.macdonald@edmn.org](mailto:shelley.macdonald@edmn.org)*

## Hustle texting tool

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Hustle is a new peer-to-peer texting tool available for locals as a way to organize and communicate with members around elections, contract negotiations, events and more.

*Contact: Sarah Cooke [sarah.cooke@edmn.org](mailto:sarah.cooke@edmn.org)*

## Legal services policy

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There are no imminent changes to our legal services policy (all such changes must be approved by the Education Minnesota Governing Board), but the legal department welcomes feedback from local leaders about our current policy.

*Contact: David Aron [david.aron@edmn.org](mailto:david.aron@edmn.org)*

## Membership

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**Online Membership Application:** The application is located on the Education Minnesota website under Benefits, then Join us, and also available on the Education Minnesota app.

Link: <https://www.educationminnesota.org/member-benefits.aspx#join-us>

**Membership and dues deduction drop dates:** If members completed a new membership application or renewal form, their drop window for dues deduction is September 24-30 and the termination is effective October 1. If members did not complete a 2017-2018 form, they may drop their membership and stop dues deduction at any time.

**Dues structure:** The delegates at the 2018 Education Minnesota Representative Convention approved changes to the Education Minnesota dues structure. Three teacher/faculty membership types were added and the FTE percentages were redistributed among the eight membership types on the dues structure.

**Potential Members:** Individuals who elect not to be active members are still members of the bargaining unit. They are called “potential members” (former fair-share fee payers).

**Roster Changes:** Locals will email roster changes to the Education Minnesota membership department as they occur. This will ensure that the local is billed accurately, the local membership roster is always up-to-date and that individual membership records are accurate.

Contact: Michelle Johnson [michelle.johnson@edmn.org](mailto:michelle.johnson@edmn.org)

## Legislative wrap-ups

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Legislative wrap-ups are now available via FaceBook Live. The wrap-ups are recorded so available at any time for local leaders to view on our website. We also contracted with The UpTake, a Minnesota-based media organization, to record pertinent legislative hearings. These recordings are also available on our website.

Contact: Jodee Buhr [jodee.buhr@edmn.org](mailto:jodee.buhr@edmn.org) or Kathi Micheletti [kathi.micheletti@edmn.org](mailto:kathi.micheletti@edmn.org)

## MEA

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Starting in 2018, the MEA conference will be Thursday only and open only to Education Minnesota members and college students working to become educators. The new, one-day format includes almost as many classes as before, but saves money and allows us to ensure that only members receive this professional development opportunity.

Contact: Megan Boldt [megan.boldt@edmn.org](mailto:megan.boldt@edmn.org)

## Media campaign

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The paid media campaign is transitioning to have a more digital emphasis. This means, rather than television ads, there will be more online banner ads, more posts on Facebook and Instagram feeds, more YouTube videos and more ads on audio services such as Spotify.

Contact: Doug Dooher [doug.dooher@edmn.org](mailto:doug.dooher@edmn.org)

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## Minnesota Educator

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The Minnesota Educator has changed from a 12-page monthly newspaper to a 24-page bimonthly magazine. More online-only and social media content will fill in the gaps.

Contact: Kieren Steinhoff [kieren.steinhoff@edmn.org](mailto:kieren.steinhoff@edmn.org)

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## NEA360 for local leaders

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NEA360 can be used by local leaders to verify membership, build report templates of rosters and look up member demographic information. For training or technical issues, local leaders can contact John Ward.

Contact: John Ward [john.ward@edmn.org](mailto:john.ward@edmn.org)

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## ULA (unrequested leave of absence) language

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Statutory default language for layoffs/ULA (unrequested leave of absence) in MN Statute 122A.40, subd. 11 and 122A.41, subd. 14 will no longer exist as of July 1, 2019. If your contract defaults to that statute or is silent on the topic of layoffs, you will need to negotiate a memorandum of understanding that deals with ULA. We advise that locals negotiate this prior to the elimination of this language, which is effective July 1, 2019.

Contacts: Andrea Cecconi [andrea.cecconi@edmn.org](mailto:andrea.cecconi@edmn.org) or Nicole Blissenbach [nicole.blissenbach@edmn.org](mailto:nicole.blissenbach@edmn.org)

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## Tiered Licensure

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Local leaders will no longer be signing off on waivers for non-licensed community experts. Instead, they will be encountering so-called “tier-1” educators in those positions. Locals will decide how to interact with and support tier 1 educators. Locals with many tier 1 educators should consider organizing a tier 1 bargaining unit within their local, but separate from the teacher bargaining unit.

Contact: Sara Ford [sara.ford@edmn.org](mailto:sara.ford@edmn.org)

