

## Education Minnesota

# New report: Well-trained teachers important for student success

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ST. PAUL, Minn. Feb. 14, 2018 – Education Minnesota’s Educator Policy Innovation Center will present on Friday its new report on the importance of linking high-quality teacher preparation programs to the state’s standards for licensing teachers, a connection the Legislature severed last year.

"Minnesota students deserve the best, most highly-prepared educators working with them every day," said Denise Specht, president of Education Minnesota. "Our team of educators has studied the issue and is ready to present thoughtful solutions that will put a highly-qualified, well-prepared teacher in every Minnesota classroom."

The report, "The Merits of Teaching Preparation Grounded in Equity: Critical Components for Developing and Retaining Educators who are Responsive to Minnesota’s Diverse and Complex Communities," documents how graduates of high-quality teacher preparation programs can raise student achievement and increase education equity.

The Legislature erased the link between teacher licensure and high-quality preparation programs during the 2017 session. The authors of the report describe possible consequences of the decision to eliminate formal preparation as a requirement for becoming a fully-licensed Minnesota teacher.

Although no longer legally required, the authors say all candidates for a Minnesota teaching license should have training in:

- Academic content and content-specific methodology
- Childhood development, including social-emotional learning
- Classroom management, student behavior, and restorative practices
- Student assessment
- Teaching diverse learners
- Special education

All teaching candidates need also need clinical experience tied to theory and built on collaboration, according to the report.

The news conference will feature classroom educators who will share the latest research and their personal experiences in Minnesota classrooms.

**Who:** Education Minnesota's Educator Policy Innovation Center

**What:** News conference on the importance of high-quality teacher preparation programs.

**When:** 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 16

**Where:** News conference room, B971, in the Capitol basement.

### **About Education Minnesota**

Education Minnesota is the voice for professional educators and students. Education Minnesota's members include teachers and education support professionals in Minnesota's public school districts, faculty members at Minnesota's community and technical colleges and University of Minnesota campuses in Duluth and Crookston, retired educators and student teachers. Education Minnesota is affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers, National Education Association and AFL-CIO.

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