

## Education Minnesota

# Educators applaud governor's emergency plan to keep teachers in the classroom

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*ST. PAUL, Minnesota. May 1, 2018* – Gov. Mark Dayton has proposed investing \$137.9 million of the current budget surplus to prevent the layoffs of hundreds of Minnesota teachers due to budget cuts.

“This infusion of one-time money will keep Minnesota teachers in the classroom for another year, prevent the teacher shortage from getting worse and keep class sizes from increasing in dozens of districts,” said Denise Specht, president of Education Minnesota. “This won’t fix the chronic underfunding of special education, the driver of the current crisis, but it will buy time for the state and federal governments to find a long-term solution.”

“Gov. Dayton and the Legislature have the freedom to react to the current staffing crisis in public education. We hope they use it,” Specht said. “We also hope they remember why it is important for leaders to have the flexibility to react to special circumstances and reject a proposed constitutional amendment that will tie their hands in future budget crises.”

### 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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