

Education Minnesota

Education Minnesota calls for renewed focus on recruiting and retaining teachers after due process lawsuit ends

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ST. PAUL, Minn. March 1, 2019 – The national advocacy group, Partnership for Educational Justice, has announced that it will not appeal a state Court of Appeals ruling dismissing its lawsuit challenging the state law granting due process protections to teachers.

Education Minnesota, which was not a party to the lawsuit, released the following statement in response.

“Minnesota is losing hundreds of outstanding educators every single year. They are leaving the profession in droves because of low pay, unmanageable class sizes, over-testing, mind-numbing paperwork and disrespect,” said Denise Specht, president of Education Minnesota. “Now that this expensive and time consuming lawsuit is over, it’s time for supporters of public education to come together to make education a career that attracts and retains the most talented people in our state. Instead of working to scapegoat and silence educators and make it easier to dismiss them without due process, we should all be working on ways to support their professional growth and keep them in the classroom.”

In January, the Minnesota Court of Appeals dismissed the lawsuit, *Forslund v. State of Minnesota*, based on the merits of the case. “... a plaintiff cannot sustain a claim that the state is providing a constitutionally inadequate education without proving that the state is in fact providing a constitutionally inadequate education,” according to the ruling. The lawsuit was first filed in 2016. The four mothers who brought the case were supported by the Partnership for Education Justice, a New York-based advocacy group that the New York Times reports receives its primary funding from the foundations of the notoriously anti-union Walton family, the founders of Walmart.

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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