

## Education Minnesota

# Educators applaud House budget for bold investments and tax fairness

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*ST. PAUL, Minnesota. March 25, 2019* – Education Minnesota supports the significant new education investments and moves toward tax fairness contained in the Minnesota House budget released Monday afternoon, said Denise Specht, president of Education Minnesota.

“The majority in the Minnesota House has taken an important step toward reversing the chronic underfunding of public education that has limited the opportunities for too many Minnesota children for too long,” Specht said. “This is a bold, progressive step in the right direction.”

Specht also praised the revenue side of the budget. “Working people are struggling in an economy that has been rigged against them by a greedy, wealthy few,” Specht said. “After the massive tax giveaway at the federal level last year, it’s good to see local leaders using the state tax code to restore some fairness.”

Specht said the members of the largest labor union in Minnesota stood ready to help Gov. Tim Walz and the leadership in the state House and Senate reconcile their budgets for the benefit of working families and students all over the state.

“Every child in our public schools, no matter their race or physical abilities, has the potential for greatness. State investments that support schools, families and highly trained educators can give our students the freedom to go as far as their talent and hard work will take them,” Specht said. “We must fully fund public education in Minnesota.”

Earlier this year, Education Minnesota released its definition of fully funding E-12 public education, including reducing class sizes so students can get individual attention, bringing the state’s ratio of counselors to students in line with national standards, giving every 4-year-old access to a high-quality pre-K program, raising educator pay and reducing educators’ education debt. The cost was \$3.7 billion to \$4.3 billion for the biennium.

### 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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