

## Education Minnesota

# Education Minnesota brings school calendar tradition online

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*ST. PAUL, Minnesota. Sept. 2, 2020* – The COVID-19 pandemic won't disrupt the tradition of Minnesota families getting personalized photo calendars from the Education Minnesota booth at the Minnesota State Fair because the union has created an online option.

"Families from all over Minnesota come to our fair booth every year and tell us that they have a tradition that goes back 5, 10, even 20 years of making a photo calendar," said Denise Specht, president of Education Minnesota. "Parents have told us they can see their children grow up in the calendars back home. We wish educators could be there for them at the fair this year, but we've done the next best thing to keep the tradition going."

Anyone interested in making their own Education Minnesota school year calendar at home can go to <https://www.educationminnesota.org/events/state-fair-booth/2020-virtual-calendar>, select the calendar, upload a photo into a Microsoft Word document and print it out. The 2020 calendars are 8.5 inches by 11 inches, a little smaller than the legal-sized calendars typically produced at the booth.

The union of Minnesota educators has made personalized calendars of the school year for more than 20 years. Originally made with Polaroid instant cameras and hot glue, the calendars are now created with modern photobooth software, digital cameras and color laser printers.

The Education Minnesota booth at the Minnesota State Fair makes more than 15,000 calendars during the run of the state fair. During a normal year, more than 150 volunteer educators operate the booth and make presentations to the public, including inviting children to play musical instruments, make art and play trivia games.

### 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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