

## Take action to fight for a stronger pension!

### Organize other members now:

Contact every member you know -- and even those you don't -- and share why they need to care about our pension plan, how they can sign up for the updates and that the only way we'll make big change is if they get involved. Use the following website link to sign up for Education Minnesota pension updates: [www.educationminnesota.org/advocacy/at-the-legislature/pensions](http://www.educationminnesota.org/advocacy/at-the-legislature/pensions)

### Take action now:

Contact TRA board members, your legislators and LCPR members (when assigned) to tell them why change is needed. In your own words, share your thoughts on these points:

- Minnesota's school staffing shortage was already a growing problem before COVID-19 hit, but now it's at crisis levels. We need competitive compensation packages that attract the best educators to the profession and keep them in our schools, which includes strong retirement benefits.
- Minnesota teachers need adequate and livable pension benefits upon retirement along with appropriate postretirement adjustments.
- The state of Minnesota has chronically underfunded educator pensions and have run pensions on the cheap. Minnesota needs to invest in educator pensions now and ensure that our system is properly funded, but not on the backs of educators.
- The state Legislature can make teaching more attractive by enhancing retirement benefits to recognize and reward teachers' hard work on behalf of students.
- Pension plans were historically designed as a tool for employers to attract skilled workers and get them to stay with that same employer until they retire. They have been particularly important for public employers like school districts since they can't pay educated, skilled workers as high of a salary as private companies.
- Minnesota students deserve stability in their schools, but there are no signs of school staffing shortages ending anytime soon. Enhanced pension benefits that honor the work of teachers is one way to recruit and retain the best educators for our students.

Legislator lookup to send messages: <https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts/>

Thank you for being an advocate for your union and for educator pensions!

Questions? Contact Adam Janiak, Education Minnesota Negotiations Specialist

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