

2023 Legislative Session Issue Brief

Fully fund public schools

Strong public schools that give every Minnesota student an equal opportunity for success—no matter what they look like or where they come from—will strengthen our communities and improve the lives of children and their families.

Minnesota educators and students need:

- A reliable, ongoing source of funding
- Tying those resources to inflation so students don't suffer when inflation is high
- Bonding support to ensure that school infrastructure is conducive to working and learning


Educators and students have been pleading for more funding for public schools for decades, knowing that a good education, leads to a good life, and supports strong communities. Many districts across Minnesota have seen a funding drop of \$3,000 per pupil since the early 2000s.

With our targeted funding, we could:

- Ensure smaller class sizes
- Provide much-needed mental and physical health support
- Invest in educator recruitment and retention, including moving towards enhanced healthcare, benefits, and better wages
- Every education support professional in Minnesota should have access to good benefits and fair wages
- Have a clean and healthy school environment where students only need to focus on learning and growing
- Address racial disparities and make sure that we're not leaving students of color behind
- Support equity across school districts, where every school has fair funding and well-off areas don't make up funding gaps with property tax referendums
- Support a fully-funded higher education system, including supporting higher ed workers, so that students can achieve their dreams
- Reform the teacher pension system to make the profession more attractive to new educators and, for current teachers, provide a fair, high-quality benefit that permits a dignified retirement even before age 66

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www.educationminnesota.org

Education Minnesota is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association and AFL-CIO.  3368



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EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS