## Take action to fight for a stronger pension!

## Organize other members now:

Pensions provide educators with a guaranteed, reliable source of income in retirement and are one tool to attract and retain qualified, experienced educators to the profession. Our teachers are paying the highest employee contributions in history, yet their plans are designed to only benefit the teachers with the longest careers and are limiting choice as to when and how they will retire.

Contact every member you know -- and even those you don't -- and share why pension advocacy is important to you, why they need to care and how they can sign up for the updates. We need as many members as possible taking action to make pension changes this year!

## Take action now:

<u>Contact your legislators</u> to tell them why change is needed. In your own words, share your thoughts on these points or <u>see our message to fully fund schools</u> and adapt if for yourself.

- ➤ Go to our pension webpage at <u>www.educationminnesota.org</u> for this information and more!
- 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.

Use this link or QR code to sign up for Education Minnesota Pension Updates: LINK



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

Questions? Contact Adam Janiak, Education Minnesota Negotiations Specialist adam.janiak@edmn.org

