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Pension Updates



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

Update No. 19

This is a critical time for action and the next step we've been building toward. Members should let the governor and their legislators know how vital it is that the state of Minnesota make an investment to recruit and retain educators now!

Use our [Action Alert](#) to let them know the time is now!

Call to action...checklist style:

Our plan will only be successful if locals organize members to take action. Legislative representation is by district so it's crucial for these plans to work through the local levels.

Check out this great idea from the pension reform Facebook group and then see the other things in this checklist for you and your local.

- "Snow Day:" send a paper letter to Gov. Walz, Senate Majority Leader Kari Dziedzic and House Speaker Melissa Hortman on March 16 asking them to raise the pension budget targets. [Click this link](#) for details and (thanks to the creativity of the FB group), let's create a blizzard!

Organizing checklist:

- Does your local have an organizing plan?
 - Creating a [pension organizing plan](#) in your local.
 - [Building meeting materials](#) to organize in your local.
 - 10-minute meeting agenda and slideshow for a building meeting.
 - Organizing handout.
- Does your local have a lobby day set up? Ask your leadership!
- Does your local repeat or create their own call to action?

Here are some local ideas that have been used across the state to get members to take action:

- 1-on-1 conversations with members.
- 10-minute meetings with members.

- Hand-written letter campaign – everyone send a paper copy to the governor in one week.
- Group letter writing.
- Building competitions to see which building can send the most emails.
- Setting up legislator conversations on a Saturday so more members can attend.
- Virtual lobby days.
- Action check, surveying members to see what actions they are willing to take.
- Contacting your superintendent, school board, principals and ESPs to work together.

Critical goals for the next two weeks

Over the next couple weeks, Gov. Tim Walz, the Minnesota House and the Minnesota Senate will each release new budget targets. We need to push legislators and the governor to support increased budget targets for pensions to address the educator shortage.

Ask your legislator:

- Will you support a pension budget target between \$1-2 billion?
- What budget target will you support?
- Will you push your party to increase the budget target? (Majority or minority.)
- Will you vote to improve pensions to recruit and retain teachers and ESPs?

Bill updates

The TRA board recently indicated that it doesn't have support for its bill and currently doesn't have any potential authors. This is extremely disappointing as the board's proposal was one option that would have created a great benefit increase.

Some questions around our bill's financials have been shared.

The information on the cost of the bill is available and was shared at the March 6 LCPR meeting. The figures are listed below and you can find the meeting info [here](#) at about the 1:14 mark. The costs of the entire bill were provided by the TRA and the other pension plans, as per usual in the process as they are the ones the LCPR and Legislature rely on.

While the cost is known, the fiscal note is not yet attached, but that will come with the process. Additionally, the authors didn't detail how to pay for it. With multiple options like one-time funding, employer contributions, employee contributions and state supplemental funding, the authors brought it to the LCPR to make those decisions coincide with the budget targets that will be updated by the House, Senate and governor in the next couple weeks.

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| NRA of 62 or 35 years of service for unreduced benefit | \$3B |
| COVID Double Service Credit | \$2B |
| Reinstating Deferred Augmentation | \$747M |
| COLA 1-3% tied to CPI | \$1.5B |

Our staff is meeting regularly with legislators, LCPR members and Gov. Walz to discuss our pension priorities, and those decision makers are sharing that they are hearing the message from members. We need to keep pushing them, so they respond with an investment!

Pension Advocacy Plan presentation resources

- An asynchronous version of the Pension Advocacy Plan presentation is now available [on MEA Online](#).
- [Building meeting materials](#) to organize in your local.

Important Events/Dates:

- Pensions Issue Lobby Day – April 20 ([Register](#))
- PERA board meetings – [Dates](#)
- TRA board meetings - [Dates](#)
- SPTRFA board meetings – [Dates](#)
- LCPR meetings - [Dates](#)

Resources:

| Organizing and Action | General Information |
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| Pension bill action alert | Education Minnesota pensions webpage |
| Legislative contact template | EdMN Capitol Connection e-newsletter |
| Tips for contacting your legislators | TRA document on pension basics |
| Find your legislators | PERA member resources |
| EdMN Lobby Days info | Public pension terminology |
| LCPR members | TRA candidate voter guide |

If you've missed any past updates, they're [available on our website](#).

If you have any questions, please email [Adam Janiak](#).

Keep organizing, sharing and talking to your colleagues about our plan. [Sign up and forward this Education Minnesota Pension Updates signup today or use the QR code below!](#)

