

To view this email as a web page, go [here](#).

Pension Updates



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

Update No. 18

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

Member action is needed NOW!

This is a critical time for member action! Contact your legislators and the governor to share that they should support benefit improvements and a strong funding investment. We have to move more legislators to support the investment in educator pensions.

- [Use our new action alert](#), personalize it or draft your own letter.
- Ask legislators directly, if they aren't an author on our pension bill...will you co-author the House or Senate bill?
- Ask legislators directly, will you support this bill?
- [Contact LCPR members](#) and share that pension improvements are essential to recruit and retain educators. Use the options in front of you to make a needed investment in education!
- Check out the [first LCPR hearing](#) on our pension bill yesterday.

PERA news

Much of our Pension Updates have been centered on the teacher pension plans, so here's some information on legislative action related to PERA member plans.

The double service credit provision of our bill, [HF2222/SF1938](#), would include school employees in PERA. The bill would double the service credit earned in years 2020, 2021 and 2022 if passed.

We are also working with our public employee coalition to continue to fight for additional changes specific to both PERA and MSRS (state employees). That work is ongoing.

Additionally, we've looked at our legislative goals for ESPs as a broad plan.

- Our bill, [HF20/SF32](#), would make hourly school workers eligible for unemployment insurance in the summer, a substantial benefit for ESPs.
- Our flagship ESP Bill of Rights, [HF1348/SF1318](#), would:
 - Establish a minimum starting salary of \$25/hour.

- o Guarantee two days of paid training each year for all support personnel who interact with students.
- o Expand access and increase affordability of hourly school workers' health care, including covering them between school years.
- o Pay ESPs for e-learning days.

These improvements would not only impact our members in the short term, but provide a higher level of contributions to PERA in the long term. This would lead to a healthier fund with more benefit opportunities. Additionally, with the increase in hourly pay the high-5 calculations that the pension benefit is based on would be positively increased for many. Long term, all salary schedules would react to the increases as well. This would create higher actual benefits for our members with increased high-5s.

All of these different goals work individually and together to create the opportunity for big improvements for ESPs. We'll continue fighting for these bills and always be looking for more positive pension opportunities.

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
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 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!](#)

