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Pension Updates



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

Update No. 28 - Extra Edition

Thank you to all of you who maxed out our virtual Pensions Issue Lobby Day capacity! We're looking forward to all the great conversations with legislators next Thursday.

Education Minnesota staff has met with legislators and their staff, been in contact with the governor's office and met with TRA staff and board members this week. We have no progress on funding to report as of today but we will keep the pressure on.

We do have an updated [action alert available](#) and also our [templates here!](#)

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

NEW! Update Q&A w/Adam Janiak

We also want to give our members a chance to ask questions and seek clarification about pensions. There's a lot of information that has changed, some that hasn't (which causes questions) and some misinformation being shared. This Q&A would be a short update on what's currently happening and a chance for members to ask questions. These are member-only sessions and will be facilitated by Adam Janiak.

Tuesday, April 18 at 5 p.m. - [Register here](#)

Wednesday, April 19 at 7 p.m. - [Register here](#)

Continued plan

Targets for advocacy

Your legislators: If you've sent emails and messages to your legislators but haven't had a chance to meet face to face, by phone or virtually, set up an appointment to meet and seek direct support for now and in the future. [You can also use our new call to action!](#)

Education Finance Committee chairs: If you are constituents of Sen. Mary Kunesh or Rep. Cheryl Youakim, it would be good to reach out and share the importance of supporting pension reforms. They will be involved directly in the conversations about additional funding for plan improvements. To be clear, both of these legislators are strong education advocates and we are looking to gain stronger support specific to pensions. This is direct advocacy with allies.

Superintendents: Currently, there are some superintendents sharing a list of “unfunded mandates” in various forms. They list bills that are introduced but not necessarily headed towards becoming law as discussions and decision making are headed in different directions. Regardless, one of the most listed items consistently is funding for pensions. Talking to your superintendents on supporting stronger pensions as a recruitment and retention tool may be necessary if your superintendent is supporting that position. We are fighting for funding from the state, whether through direct funding or funding through the formula, to improve pensions.

Actions

Escalating effectiveness moves from letters and messages to meeting face to face (including virtually) with legislators.

- If your local has a lobby day established in the next few weeks, ensure that attendees are either versed in our pension advocacy or are prepared to advocate on pensions.
- If your local already had a lobby day, either contact your president to inquire if there is release time available for an additional day or set up your own meeting outside of the duty day to meet with legislators either one to one or with other pension advocates.

Bombard the Big Three

- Contact Gov. Tim Walz, Senate Majority Leader Kari Dziedzic and House Speaker Melissa Hortman and ask them to increase the funding for pensions.
- Speak with your two legislators directly and seek their action to advocate for a bigger investment.

Constituent-based action

- If you are a constituent, contact Sen. Mary Kunesh or Rep. Cheryl Youakim about their support of employer and state funding for pension improvements.

What can members do for the next two weeks?

Message Mondays – Talk to colleagues this Monday and the next and encourage them to take action. Goal: Find two members to send a message (someone who hasn't before) or take another action.

Tuesday – Friday (Pick one or more)

- Meet – Face-to-face meetings with legislators is the next level. Set an individual appointment or a meeting with others, and check on your lobby day options.
- Call – Call and leave a message for one of the Big Three.
- Message – Send a message specific to increased funding needed for pension reform.

May 20 rally

One of our actions to get all of our education bills across the finish line will be a Capitol rally for all members on Saturday, May 20.

This is something we've done in past sessions and represents another opportunity for us to show decision-makers how important investing in educators is right now. Some might think the date is too late, but legislative

deals are typically happening right up until adjournment.

[Register online here!](#)

Resources:

Organizing and Action	General Information
NEW pensions 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!](#)

