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Pension Updates



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

Update No. 30

A big thank you to the more than 100 members who attended the two pension Q&A sessions. It's always great to gather together with so many members who are passionate about pensions!

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

Meetings with decision makers

We continue to meet with key decision makers at the Capitol several times per week to talk about pensions. Our meetings continue to be very productive, and we are seeing good support toward our issues.

The cumulative effect of these meetings will be to move these lawmakers toward our goal of strong improvements to the pension system in Minnesota. We need to keep our advocacy focused and our efforts strategic and coordinated to support that progress.

One sign that teachers are being heard: We are seeing some politicians attempting to use the pension issue for political gain. For example, a legislator recently introduced a bill amendment that would strip funding from other parts of the bill and divert it to the TRA.

It was obvious that the legislative body would not pass the amendment. This move was definitely a direct set up of the majority party to have to vote "no." Attempts to waste our efforts on gimmicks are not the real solutions we need.

Our advocacy efforts are built around gaining support from decision makers. We want to ensure that all of the things we do create allies and support, not alienate people. We want to share accurate information about why the issue is important and what they can do to support teachers.

Action Targets

Pressure is needed on the governor and the commissioners appointed by him. The commissioners often have a more direct line to the governor than legislators do.

Contact the Minnesota Management and Budget and Minnesota Department of Education commissioners with our [new, easy-to-use call to action](#) to ask them to join our fight. Our goal is to emphasize the priority of pension reform

now and for them to share that message with the governor. You can also [use another recent template](#) to contact your own legislators and Gov. Walz.

Pivoting the Virtual Lobby Day

The schedule and availability of the Legislature is often impossible to predict. On Thursday, during our scheduled Virtual Lobby Day, the House is hearing the Education Finance bill, and the Senate is hearing the Veterans, State Government and Environment bills. There will be few, if any, opportunities for legislators to come off of the floor to attend our meeting. A number of the legislators who had already confirmed for our lobby day have let us know they will no longer be available, and we expect others to share similar concerns in the next day.

Here's our pivot:

April 27 is now a Pension Day of Action

Join educators from around the state Thursday, April 27, to lobby your legislators to fix teacher pensions! [Sign up here](#). Educators should connect directly with their legislators to set up time, but we'll also have staff available to direct folks and help pull legislators from floor sessions.

Schedule:

1-1:30 p.m.: Legislative briefing and discussion at Education Minnesota headquarters.

1:30-4 p.m.: Time to connect with your legislators, observe legislative business from the gallery and potentially attend committee hearings.

4-4:30 p.m.: Debrief at Education Minnesota headquarters.

We'll verify membership for educators who want to join in on our briefing and debrief, but all educators are encouraged to join us at the Capitol and meet with their legislators.

Remember, we will also continue to consider [the May 20 rally](#) to be a final push to get funding and improvements across the finish line and into final bills.

May 20 Rally

One of our actions to get all of our education bills across the finish line will be an educator Rally on May 20. This will be another opportunity for members to show decision makers how important investing in educators is right now.

[Information and register 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!](#)

