

Pension Updates: Tuesday Capitol March, House Adjourning 5/18

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Pension Updates

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MARCH FOR OUR FUTURE

Solidarity for Fair Teacher Pensions

Tuesday 5/16 6:30 p.m.

Meet in the EdMN parking lot: 41 Sherburne Ave, St. Paul

Teaching has gotten harder, pensions should get better, not worse.

Update No. 35

MAIN POINTS IN THIS UPDATE: March on the Capitol Tuesday May 16 at 6:30 p.m., New [Call to Action](#)

Legislative Session Ends Soon

Last week's special LCPR meeting was an attention-getter for teacher pensions, and featured powerful testimony from teachers in support of [HF3294/SF3314](#). We made the best case possible for Tier 2 teacher pension improvements this session. Huge appreciation to the teachers who testified in person and virtually and who [wrote testimony](#) for the hearing. If you missed it, here's a [video compilation](#) from the hearing.

What's happening now?

This is the hardest part of the legislative session. Internal conversations are happening among the Speaker of the House, Senate Majority Leader, Governor, committee chairs and conference committee members on what will be in the final versions of omnibus bills. We're still working with our legislative advocates and waiting to see if any teacher pension reform solution is included in final bills. As soon as we hear, we will let you know. In the meantime, please continue to fill up lawmakers' voicemail and email inboxes, it could be the push they need to take a hard stance.

The House passed a resolution Wednesday to adjourn their work on Thursday, May 18. This can be overridden if things change, but it sets the expectation that half of the Legislature will be fully done with their decisions on bills on the 18th. This means that any change we want to bills must be pushed before then, though we'll need to keep up the energy to make sure the Senate follows through.

We March on Tuesday

Because of this news about adjournment of the House, we need a huge presence on pension reform before the 18th. We know it's a quick turnaround, but we're asking for everyone who cares about teacher pension reform to show up on **Tuesday, May 16 at 6:30 p.m. to march on the Capitol grounds**. If we show up, and lawmakers see a couple thousand teachers making a stand on this, that could be the last push they need to include pension reform in a bill this session.

We need to tell legislators not to go home without finishing their work on pensions.

Share this event with every teacher and administrator you know – this is the time for thousands of us to show up. Bring your friends and family. And wear purple!

Please boost and share [this Facebook event](#).

Bring homemade signs if you'd like. No profanity on signs. Capitol Security does not allow signs to be mounted on handles.

TRA Board Election

Thank you to the 7,057 TRA members who participated in this year's board election. We want to extend a congratulations to new TRA board members, Dave Rondestvedt and Kathy Oellerich, who are both Tier 2 members.

Voting was up 3% from last year, but still only had 8% of all TRA members voting. There is a lot of work to be done to reach out to more teachers, ask them to engage more, and push TRA and the legislative leaders to make change.

62/30 to 60/30 Penalties

While the HF3294/SF3314 proposal lowers teachers' penalties throughout all ages, the 62/30 provision is written specifically by age so does not do anything below age 62. We've made it clear to legislative leaders: passing NRA 64 is a start and the plan also needs a threshold for long-career teachers. Whether moving the 62/30 provision lower or creating an unreduced threshold, to accomplish this more funding is needed from the Legislature. The worry is, again, that if we complicate our message on this last proposal because it's not everything we want, we may end up with nothing at all this session.

Action Targets

In our final push we need to continue to build support from your own legislators as well as the speaker, majority leader and governor. Please remember you can personalize our template or create your own letter as well.

Use this new [call to action](#) to tell lawmakers that it's not right to adjourn session with no action on teacher pensions.

Contact Gov. [Tim Walz](#), Senate Majority Leader [Kari Dziedzic](#) and House Speaker [Melissa Hortman](#) and ask for their support to fund [HF3294/SF3314](#).

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!](#)

