Your Union at Work

2022-23 Progress on Education Minnesota’s Organizational Priorities

Racial Equity and Social Justice
Co-create equitable schools and anti-racist unions that welcome all students and educators, no matter their color, orientation, economic status, abilities or ZIP code.

Strong Locals
Empower locals and members working collectively to be strong, trusted advocates for public education at the local and state levels.

Full Funding for Strong Public Schools
Establish a full and permanent funding system for public schools that guarantees students and educators have the resources they need to deliver the education our students deserve — from early education to secondary.

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www.educationminnesota.org

Education Minnesota is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association and AFL-CIO.
Racial Equity Advocates (REA) program has trained over 130 members across the state working to dismantle systemic racism in their schools through professional development, peer support and restorative justice efforts.

Supported locals developing local equity teams and plans.

Established new Jewish and re-established LGBTQ+ affinity groups.

Supported educators and locals who were attacked for inclusive practices.

Supported record number of locals in defeating anti-CRT slates of school board candidates, winning over 60% of these races.

Member of Color affinity groups planned and executed first-ever Member of Color Summit in October 2022.

Negotiations staff engaged with a network of locals working to bargain equity issues in their contracts.

Created and expanded equity bargaining resources.

Increased collaboration with community organizations throughout the state doing social justice work that share our union values.

Supported other unions, including the Minnesota Nurses’ Association, in strike efforts.

Collective Bargaining and Organizing Conference continued to offer training on bargaining with an equity mindset.

Sponsored first ever “Uplifting Voices” conference, professional development and networking focused entirely on racial equity and social justice issues within education and our unions.

Racial Equity and Social Justice

Co-create equitable schools and anti-racist unions that welcome all students and educators, no matter their color, orientation, economic status, abilities or ZIP code.
Won significant improvements to tiered licensure system.

Held a 600+ person rally, virtual town halls with LCPR chair and pension bill sponsors, sent 12,000+ emails to legislators and organized a pension march to advocate for pension improvements.

Eliminated the exclusion on Tier 1s and early childhood/pre-K teachers from the teacher bargaining unit, extended continuing contract/tenure rights to ECFE and ABE teachers.

Successful lobby to make Minnesota the first state in the country to allow ESPs to access unemployment insurance during the summer.

Successful election outcome with a trifecta of pro-public education office holders for first time since 2012.

Nearly all of the ongoing budget surplus – $5.5 of $6.5 billion invested in education – including per-pupil funding formula increases of 4 and 2 percent in the next two years.

Held several Days of Action on critical issues, such as ESP training and support.

Brought 700+ members to the Capitol in person for lobby days.

Won Student Support Services, mental health support and educator of color recruitment and retention support.

Won huge investment in special education and English learner funding.

Successfully lobbied legislative leadership to get pension improvements back on the table at the end of session.

Full Funding for Strong Public Schools

Establish a full and permanent funding system for public schools that guarantees students and educators have the resources they need to deliver the education our students deserve – from early education to secondary.
Supported locals in creating membership organizing plans for 2022-23.

Membership data project: Education Minnesota staff used data requests and updated rosters to better reflect all potential members working in districts throughout the state.

Provided strong representation and in-depth guidance to every affiliated local on a wide variety of negotiations, member rights, organizing and professional practice issues.

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Updated and streamlined member rights (MRA), negotiator (CNP), and organizing (LCAT) trainings.

Re-envisioned Emerging Leaders program as Union Leadership Development Program, greatly expanding leadership training opportunities.

Education Minnesota staff attorneys represented locals or individual members in 354 cases, including 276 contract grievances during 22-23 membership year.

Offered and expanded Building Resilience and Voice in Early Career Educators (BRAVE) program to support new members in building culturally responsive classrooms and developing advocacy skills.

Supported locals in creating membership organizing plans for 2022-23.

Expanded communication via EDMN votes and during the legislative session with new action alerts.

Developed new bargaining resources on educator recruitment and retention.

Organizers worked with 30 locals on ongoing member-engagement planning and implementation as part of the Capacity-Building Program.

Early enrollment campaign to encourage potential members to join at no cost to the member from April-August.

Governing Board committee dispersed $400,000 in relational organizing grants to 60 locals across the state.

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