

2023-24 Pension Advocacy Plan: 10-minute Building Meeting – Trainer Agenda

Materials available:

- Get Involved! Pension Advocacy Flyer
- Pension Pointers Informational Flyer
- Sign-in sheet

Welcome (1 minute)

Welcome members to the meeting, thank them for coming and learning about this important educator issue and have them sign on the sign-in sheet.

Intro (1 minute)

Start the meeting with a question: What would it feel like to have a well-funded, flexible retirement plan that you can count on to support you after years of teaching?

- Ask members to share out their responses.

Content (4 minutes)

Provide a brief overview of our statewide unionism, pension issues and what we're fighting for.

- The collective power of our statewide union is used to meet the financial needs of our members (such as funding for our schools as well as advocating for better pay and pensions) and to ensure our members can advocate for their students and profession without fear of reprisal.

Share our Pension issue:

- The state of Minnesota has chronically underfunded our pensions which has led to a Tier 2 benefit design that only benefits the teachers with the longest careers, at the highest ages. We want to decrease penalties for retirement below age 62, allowing educators to choose when they're ready to retire without losing a significant amount of their pension benefit.


What we're doing about it:

- We are fighting for an investment by the state of Minnesota into education and our profession. This investment is needed to enhance and elevate our profession and a long-term solution to the educator shortage.
- Organizing members in our local and across the state to take action this legislative session.
- We're advocating for lowering penalties and reducing the Normal Retirement Age (NRA) as we move toward our ultimate vision: an unreduced pension benefit for teachers who are 62 or have 35 years or service.

Note: Allow time for questions. If there are too many questions to address in the time provided, move to the next item on the agenda and offer to connect after the meeting. If there are questions that you're not sure how to answer, direct folks to email pensions@edmn.org. Following up allows the member to see you care about their inquiry and continues to build the relationship.

Updated: Oct. 16, 2023

www.educationminnesota.org

Education Minnesota is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers,
the National Education Association and AFL-CIO.  4092



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

Connect content with the local (2 minutes)

Share that (your local name) is sharing this information because you want all members to engage with their union in a way that feels valuable. The local should use this time to describe ways to get involved and take action. You can use the list below as you see fit:

- Reach out your local legislators, by email, call, letter or meeting
- Invite your legislators to a local meeting on pensions
- Reach out to legislators on the LCPR
- Reach out to the Speaker of the House, Majority Leader of the Senate and Governor
- Attend rallies and marches
- Attend pension lobby days
- Engage your colleagues in pension work
- Become a Pension Building Rep
- Submit an LTE for your local paper
- Anything else your local would like to do!

Make the clear ask: "Will you participate in our next pension action?"

Ask for help identifying who to connect with next: "Who else should I talk to?"

Wrap up (2 minutes)

Leave them with the reminder that strong educators and lifting up the education profession is vital to the success of the students. Emphasize that the union is an existing structure that engages in various forms of advocacy, which makes it possible for educators to succeed, and for schools to realize the goal of student success.