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# Pension Updates



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL  
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

## Update No. 58

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

### A powerful rally

Thank you so much to the hundreds of educators who made it to the Capitol yesterday to raise your collective voice to advocate for educator pensions. The rotunda was full and it was loud. We had members and union leaders join us from every corner of the state. We know that when we come together, we can make the change we need.

This wouldn't have been possible without dedicated pension advocates who helped spread the word, encouraging colleagues to join and raise their voice. Thank you!

If you missed the rally, or if you just want to hear the speeches again, you can find the full stage recording [here](#).



### Media coverage of the Pension Rally

As we continue to raise our voices on pension improvements, we're building a movement that continues to grow momentum with the public and the press. Please send a thank you to the reporters who were able to cover our rally on an incredibly busy day at the Capitol.

- Mankato Free Press - [Local teachers rally for improved pension benefits in St. Paul](#)
- KSTP - [Teachers to rally at state Capitol for overhaul of pension program](#)
- WCCO Radio - [Teachers rally at the Capitol seeking better pensions](#)
- CBS News - [Educators to rally at the Capitol today](#)

If you've come across an article or segment not on this list, please share on the [Education Minnesota Pension Advocacy Network](#).

### Legislators turned out to support pension reform

A powerful moment of the rally was when LCPR Chair Rep. Kaohly Vang Her brought many supportive state representatives on stage as she spoke. Many legislators stopped by and stayed to hear your advocacy efforts.

Please send your thanks to [Senate Majority Leader Erin Murphy](#), [Chair Her](#) and [LCPR Vice Chair Sen. Nick Frentz](#), as well as and penalty reduction bill authors [Rep. Dan Wolgamott](#) and [Sen. Heather Gustafson](#) for speaking up at the rally and standing with teachers.



### Budget forecast review

If you didn't hear yesterday, the Minnesota Management and Budget Office released [the February budget forecast](#), which provides the roadmap to how much state legislators would be able to invest in solutions this year.

The forecast came back positive, with a stronger surplus than was reported in November. This is good news, but we still have folks crunching the numbers to identify how much of the surplus is counted as **ongoing** money. To make systemic change, like improvements toward our pensions, we need ongoing money. We'll have more updates as more information comes in.

Following the forecast news, legislative leaders will be releasing their budget targets for this session. Budget targets set the amount of money intended to go to each legislative policy area. LCPR Chair Rep. Kaohly Vang Her mentioned at our rally that she's fighting for a budget target with ongoing money to improve teacher pensions.

Now is the most important time to use this [easy call-to-action email](#) to contact legislative leadership about our needs.

### Monthly Zooms for Pension Action Leaders

Are you an Education Minnesota member and a pension building rep, an action leader or an active advocate? Please join us for our monthly Zoom updates! We'll give you pension action items, resources and legislative news that will be helpful in your efforts. The next update is Tuesday, March 2 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. [Sign up here!](#)

### Action items

This legislative session, we'll continue to post our growing list of resources at the

end of each Pension Update. As you communicate about pension advocacy in your workplace, please share these resources with members who wish to get engaged.

- Check out our [one-pager](#) on bills this year! Feel free to distribute to your local colleagues.
- Use our [easy action form](#) to reach out to your State Representative, asking them to sign on in support of the Penalty Reduction Bill! We need 35 co-authors to have the best chance to make this change!
- [Sign up](#) for the Pension Updates e-newsletter and read previous newsletters [here](#).
- [Sign up to be a Pension Action Leader](#) and we'll contact you about action items and advocacy to your state legislators. We need a PAL in every local and legislative district!
- Use our [easy action form](#) to contact legislative leadership asking for their support of state investment for pension improvements.
- Join the [members-only Pension Advocacy Network private Facebook group](#), which is the best place to get updates, stay involved and ask questions.
- Watch our Pension 101 and Penalty Reduction Bill sessions on [MEA Online](#).
- We encourage all members to [make an appointment](#) with TRA to discuss what your benefit currently looks like and what options you have.
- Use [this flyer](#), [this flyer](#) and [this flyer](#) to communicate with your colleagues about the pension movement.
- Request a stack of [pension postcards](#) from your field staff for your local. These postcards can act as a great tool for members to write to their legislators. We'll have a bunch available at the rally!





Photo credit: SPFE member and photographer, Ellen Perrault



Photo credit: MN House Photography, Michele Jokinen



