

Education Minnesota's pension priorities for the 2025 session

No matter where we're from, what we look like, or where we live now, Minnesotans agree that every student deserves a world-class education at their local public school. Unfortunately, the Minnesota Legislature has underfunded teacher pensions for so long that nearly nine in 10 schools report a teacher shortage, meaning our schools can no longer attract new educators and keep mid-career professionals - and students are receiving less attention than they deserve. In 2025, it's time for Minnesotans to come together and demand the pension reforms and sustainable funding necessary to make pensions a recruitment and retention tool to ease the staffing crisis. It's one crucial way for our state to provide every student with a caring, professional educator who will help them achieve their dreams.

The Education Minnesota plan for TRA

- **Enact an unreduced retirement career rule of 60 years of age and 30 years of service.**
 - Career educators deserve to retire when they are ready. Minnesota Tier 2 Teachers Retirement Association members are in one of only two teacher pension plans without an unreduced career rule in the region.
- **Lower base penalties from 7% to 5% for retirement ages 59-64.**
 - The current system over-penalizes those who need to draw their benefits before age 65.
- **Improve the cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA, by ending the COLA delay and accelerating the scheduled COLA increase from 1.2% to 1.5% in 2028.**
 - These changes are affordable for the state and recognize how inflation has eroded pension benefits for current retirees.
- **Legislate and lock in ongoing funding for teacher pension improvements.**
 - Minnesota teachers are paying the highest rate in history into the pension fund, and receiving a less-flexible benefit in return, because state legislators have underfunded teacher pensions for decades. It's time for this generation of elected leaders to do more than say they support educators. It's time for them to prove it by funding pension reform.

