

M I N N E S O T A

EDUCATOR

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2026

**Welcome to
the 2025 MEA!**



EDUCATION MINNESOTA
THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

**Annual MEA conference
returns Oct. 15**

***This fall, vote yes
for public schools!***



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

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**THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS**

October/November 2026 – Volume 29, No. 2

The Minnesota Educator publishes every other month. It is one of the union's print and digital publications to educate, inform and organize the community of members. The Educator is reported, edited and designed by union staff members. The magazine is printed by union workers at Arandell Printing in Menomonee Falls, Wis. Find copies of the Educator online at www.educationminnesota.org. Go to the News menu, then Minnesota Educator.

To reach the publication for queries, story or commentary ideas:

Email: educator@edmn.org
Mail: Minnesota Educator
41 Sherburne Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55103

To report a change of address or end duplicate mailings, contact the Education Minnesota membership department:

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Minnesota Educator (ISSN 1521-9062) is a bimonthly publication.

Periodicals are postage-paid at St. Paul, Minnesota, and additional
offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Minnesota
Educator, 41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103-2196.

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The Minnesota Educator is published for members
to share news about education issues and training
opportunities for educators as well as union and political
news that affects public education in Minnesota.

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Photo credits:

Cover, pgs. 5, 8: Sarah Cooke

Pg. 4: Jessica Hawk

Back cover: Doug Doohar

Still here, still healing: A new year in Minnesota schools

The school year has started across Minnesota with hopes and prayers for about 170 instructional days without drama, trauma or another once-in-a-career event. Educating Minnesota's students is stressful enough. Educators don't need to carry more.

I was reminded how brittle the mental health of thousands of our educators was in early September as I sat on a panel at the annual convention of the Minnesota AFL-CIO. We heard stories of working people struggling with their mental health, especially from people touched by the violence of Operation Metro Surge. They are not okay.

Our union polled its members over the summer and learned about the size of the wound left by the federal government's tactics. Nearly three-quarters of members surveyed reported disruptions to their classrooms, such as absenteeism, fear and anxiety.

The poll didn't attempt to measure the psychological toll ICE tactics took on educators. I'm not sure it even could. But the continuing lack of support for students and educators touched by ICE will be a huge challenge.

This is where I wish I could write there were no troubles ahead, but I can't. We all need to find time to care for ourselves, but we can't abandon the struggle for the resources we need for ourselves, our families and our students.

Our union's priorities are familiar because they're nearly universal among our members. Improving pay and pensions and lowering the cost of healthcare is necessary to maintain the system of public schools in Minnesota.

From what I've heard so far, changing working conditions to reduce burnout may be moving into the top tier, but we will have to see what happens this year.

The path to the solutions for our problems still runs through the ballot box. Electing our slate of educator-endorsed, pro-education, pro-labor candidates to Congress, for governor, and to the Legislature is vital. So is passing the constitutional amendment to increase

funding for public schools from the Permanent School Fund.

For educators in dozens of school districts, we must pass levy referendums and elect school board candidates. The attempt by national MAGA groups to take over school boards has moved off the front page, but it hasn't stopped, despite years of voters rejecting candidates who oppose public schools that welcome and respect all students.

Early voting has started and our union's guidance is to vote as early as you feel comfortable doing so, either in person or by U.S. mail. I trust Secretary of State Steve Simon when he says Minnesota's elections are secure, but I also see the White House moving to interfere in unprecedented ways on the fall elections. If federal agents do intimidate voters, or if bad actors try to create chaos with disinformation, or if any of the dozens of other scenarios being considered right now come true, our union and our allies in defending free elections will be ready to act—although I hope it doesn't come to that.

It's a difficult time in education. Harder than anyone asked for or expected. An ordinary election followed by an orderly transition to the next Congress and Legislature is all we want. If it doesn't happen, well, educators won't give up our democracy easily.

I'm reminded of something Langston Hughes once wrote in a poem called, "Still Here." He said that he had been "scarred and battered, my hopes the wind done scattered," but he wouldn't let the world grind him down.

They done tried to make me

Stop laughin', stop lovin', stop living' -

But I don't care!

I'm still here!

Hang in there, educators.

In unity,



Monica Byron,
Education Minnesota President



Congratulations to Lauren Margotta of Education Minnesota – OSSEO for being this month’s contest winner!

We love seeing all the places you read your Minnesota Educator. Send a photo of where you’re reading your Educator to educator@edmn.org to be entered into a drawing! *Please include your name, your district or local and a one-sentence description of where you are reading.*

The winner will receive a \$50 Visa gift card and be featured in the next issue of the Minnesota Educator. Happy reading!

Lauren reads her Educator in her backyard oasis.

Educators in the news

“I’ve always felt like reading is this way in which you actually feel like you can be totally safe. You’re just secure sitting there, hopefully with a roof above your head, etc., but you also get to go off on dangerous adventures or think thoughts that you’re not sure are okay to think, and so reading has always been that kind of an outlet for me.”

Mounds View member Patrick Hueller in a Sept. 2 MPR article titled, “Minnesota teacher publishes poetry collection about what keeps him returning to the classroom.”

Getting social!

Stay connected with Education Minnesota by following us on our social media channels!

-  facebook.com/educationminnesota
-  [@educationminnesota](https://www.instagram.com/educationminnesota)
-  [@educationminnesota](https://twitter.com/educationminnesota)

Connect with your local!

Each issue, we will select a couple of local unions’ social media pages to highlight. Make sure to give them a follow to stay up to date on what’s happening at the local level.

Follow Pine Island Education Association on Instagram:

 [@pineislandea](https://www.instagram.com/pineislandea)

Follow Minnesota State College Faculty on Facebook:

 facebook.com/minnesotastatecollegefaculty

Annual MEA Conference returns Oct. 15

With more relicensure classes!

Education Minnesota's annual MEA conference will be held Thursday, Oct. 15 at the St. Paul RiverCentre. This event, which is the union's largest professional development conference, will feature dozens of workshops and exhibitors.

Details

- The MEA conference is only open to aspiring educators and Education Minnesota members.
- All attendees must register by Friday, Oct. 9. Classes fill up quickly, so we recommend registering as early as possible.
- Attendee check-in begins at 7:30 a.m.
- General session: 9 a.m.
- Workshops: 10:45 a.m.-4:45 p.m.
- Parking: the closest parking ramps are RiverCentre Ramp, 150 W. Kellogg Blvd.; Science Museum of Minnesota, 120 W. Kellogg Blvd.; Lawson Ramp, 11 5th St. W. More parking options are available at www.stpaul.gov/parking-saint-paul
- For MEA attendees, free childcare is available for children ages 6 months-12 years. You can register when you register for the conference.
- Attendees may be able to earn continuing education credit for attending MEA and some workshops may help fulfill relicensure requirements. After MEA, Education Minnesota will email you an attendance certificate for the sessions you attended. Please check with your district on whether you will receive credit.

Don't miss keynote speaker Jessica Hawk

Jessica Hawk, known on social media as Myteacherface, will be giving the keynote speech at the 2026 MEA conference. Hawk was a public school educator for 32 years before retiring in 2024. She began her teaching career in Prince George's County, Maryland, but spent 29 years as a high school English teacher in southern New Jersey, where she was a proud member of her local union and the New Jersey Education Association for her entire career.

While at the high school, Jessica taught everything from basic skills to advanced placement, sophomores to seniors, literature to film analysis—often all in the same day. As she was teaching, she completed two masters degrees, a doctorate and National Board Certification, while also being an advisor to various clubs and classes. The most special to her was the Gay-Straight Alliance. She was the adviser for 20 years and was recognized as the New Jersey State Equality Champion of the year in 2015.

As much as she loved teaching, she knew it was best to leave before she didn't love it, so she moved on to full-time content creation in 2024, which is also when she became a member of the New Jersey Retired Teachers Association.

Because of her humor and her brutal honesty about the teaching profession, Jessica has amassed more than 1.7 million followers across platforms and over 200 million views of her content. She is a regular guest on the Teachers Off Duty podcast and makes content for Bored Teachers social media pages as well.

You can find her on Instagram, YouTube and TikTok: @myteacherface.



Jessica Hawk



MEA exhibitors

The MEA conference includes an exhibit hall with vendors who are interested in sharing information, freebies and discounts with attendees. The exhibit hall will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on the same ballroom level as the workshops at the Saint Paul RiverCentre during the conference.

Exhibitors who will be at the conference include, but are not limited to:

AFT Member Benefits	Mental Health Minnesota	Scholastic Inc
Animal Rights Coalition	Minitex	Science Museum of Minnesota
Base Camp - Northern Star	Minneapolis Institute of Art	Security Benefit
Scouting	Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom	Securus ID AURA
Bethel University	Minnesota Department of Education	SpEd Forms
Brighter Days Family Grief Center	Minnesota Historical Society	The Emily Program
Brown Babies Puzzles	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	Tradition Mortgage
Clean Economy Educators	Minnesota State Chess Association	Travelers
Comparion Insurance Agency	Minnesota Zoo	University of Minnesota College of Education and Human Development
Concordia College	MKG Parent Coach	University of St. Thomas, School of Education
Concordia University, St. Paul	MnDOT On My Way! Walk, Bike, and Roll Safety Education	University of Wisconsin Polytechnic
Cooperative Will & Trust	NEA Member Benefits	Unsung Psychotherapy
Education Minnesota programs	North Star School Supply	Urban Boatbuilders
EFS Advisors	Ordway Center for the Performing Arts	Walker Art Center
ELS	PeakWell LLC	Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
Expedition Credit Union	R.E.A.C.H.	Winona State University, School of Graduate Studies
Field Trip Adventures	Racially Conscious Collaboration LLC.	WoMen's Rural Advocacy Programs, Inc. (WRAP)
Future Leaders Academy	Relationship Kid	Youth Eco Solutions - YES!
H2O for Life	Rogers Behavioral Health	Youth for Human Rights
Healing Hearts Connection	Schatz Benefit Group	Youth Frontiers
Humanus Network		
Innovo Benefits & Mktng LLC		
Islamic Resource Group		
Make-A-Wish Minnesota		
Mental Health Counseling Services		

MEA workshops: Oct. 15

Location	9-10:30 a.m.	10:45-11:45 a.m.	11:45-12:45 p.m.	12:45-1:45 p.m.
Ballroom A	General session and keynote speaker	Aspiring Ed and Early Career Networking Space: Aspire to Retire	Lunch break	Aspiring Ed and Early Career Networking Space: Table Chats
Ballroom B		EMAC Affinity Space		EMAC Affinity Space
Ballroom C		Implementing Indigenous Education for All*		The Data Says "At Risk." Now What? Helping Multilingual Learners Get the Support They Really Need*
Ballroom D				
Room 1		What's new? PELSB & Minnesota Teacher Licensure		Grounded Under Pressure: Adult Regulation, De-escalation and Restorative Response in Schools
Room 2		Reframing Burnout: Wellness as a Workplace Condition, Not a Personal Fix		Real Talk: Sustaining Equity Work During Trying Times
Room 3		Championing Inclusive Schools: ADL's No Place for Hate Initiative		Helping Students Make Sense of Their World
Room 4		Stronger Together: Teachers & School Librarians Building Partnerships		Beyond Screening: Dyslexia in the Classroom
Room 5		An Introduction to Project WILD		Games, Games, Games! Quick Activities for Big Thinking
Room 6		Free Benefits? Yes Please!		College is Possible! Widening the Path for Students with IDD
Room 7		Education Minnesota Foundation Application Coaching and Collaboration		Teachers and ESPs: Building a Healthy Working Relationship
Room 8		Q&A with Teacher of the Year Finalists		Finding Coherence in the Midst of Classroom Chaos
Room 9		Zoom In - Zoom Out! Sparking Oral Language Production with Images and Illustrations		Geeky, Gritty Gratitude: How Thankfulness Increases Resilience and Mental Health*
Room 10		Reading (Relicensure)*		Reading (Relicensure)*
Room 11		English Learners (Relicensure)*		English Learners (Relicensure)*
Room 12		Student Mental Health (Relicensure)*		Student Mental Health (Relicensure)*
Room 13		Positive Behavior Interventions & Accommodations/Modifications (Relicensure)*		Positive Behavior Interventions & Accommodations/Modifications (Relicensure)*
Room 14		Suicide Prevention (Relicensure)*		Suicide Prevention (Relicensure)*
Room 15		American Indian History and Culture (Relicensure)*		American Indian History and Culture (Relicensure)*

Schedule subject to change. Go to www.educationminnesota.org for more information.

2:00-3:00 p.m.	3:15-4:15 p.m.	Location
Aspiring Ed and Early Career Networking Space: Degrees Not Debt (AE Only)	Aspiring Ed and Early Career Networking Space: Beyond Survival Mode: Building a Sustainable Teaching Life	Ballroom A
EMAC Affinity Space	EMAC Affinity Space	Ballroom B
Teaching Students How to Read Multisyllabic Words*	Using the Disclosure of AI as an Opportunity for Critical Reflection	Ballroom C
		Ballroom D
Self-Monitoring Interventions to Support Students with Challenging Behavior	Making Learning Visible: Practices That Increase Student Growth	Room 1
Better Decisions Start with Youth Voice: How to Move from Feedback to Action	We All Need Food and Water	Room 2
Sky's Behavior Solutions	Poetry Out Loud: Celebrating Student Voice	Room 3
Grief 101: Supporting Grieving Students in Schools	Cultivate: Building Confidence as an Early Career Teacher	Room 4
Boost Multiplication Fact Fluency with Research Based Practices	Haak Hacks: Leveraging Local Resources for STEM Engagement	Room 5
Navigating Narratives: Strategies for Establishing & Sustaining Anti-Racist Classroom Culture	Processing Cultural Differences	Room 6
Recognizing and Combating Antisemitism in Schools	Teaching With Purpose: Using Your Values to Guide Your Work and Your Classroom	Room 7
Sneaking Veggies into the Brownies: Using Dinosaurs to Teach Nature of Science Learning Goals	Reporting with Care: A New Approach to Supporting Families as Mandated Reporters	Room 8
Centering Student Success Through the Lens of LGBTQIA+ Identities	Fostering Inclusive Schools Through the Lens of LGBTQIA+ Identities	Room 9
Reading (Relicensure)*	Reading (Relicensure)*	Room 10
English Learners (Relicensure)*	English Learners (Relicensure)*	Room 11
Student Mental Health (Relicensure)*	Student Mental Health (Relicensure)*	Room 12
Positive Behavior Interventions & Accommodations/Modifications (Relicensure)*	Positive Behavior Interventions & Accommodations/Modifications (Relicensure)*	Room 13
Suicide Prevention (Relicensure)*	Suicide Prevention (Relicensure)*	Room 14
American Indian History and Culture (Relicensure)*	American Indian History and Culture (Relicensure)*	Room 15

*Classes highlighted and noted with an * cover one of the state's teacher relicensure areas.*

Selected courses of interest for education support professionals at MEA

October's MEA conference has many great workshops and sessions that will benefit education support professionals. Below is a description of some of the offerings that are available at the MEA conference and through MEA Online.

The data says “at risk.” Now what? Helping multilingual learners get the support they really need

Explore the stories behind real multilingual learner data and how ACCESS, FastBridge and classroom evidence each contribute to a fuller picture. Work alongside fellow educators to connect patterns to meaningful supports, then leave with practical strategies, team-ready tools and a digital toolkit you can use right away.

Grounded under pressure: Adult regulation, de-escalation and restorative response in schools

Educators are asked to respond clearly when pressure rises. This session offers practical tools for adult regulation, de-escalation, restorative response and culturally responsive decision-making. Participants will learn small, usable practices for staying grounded, protecting dignity, reducing escalation and responding with consistency when behavior, conflict or stress intensifies.

Helping students make sense of their world

Students are constantly making sense of their experiences, relationships and circumstances. This session explores how educators influence that process and why helping students make sense of their world begins with understanding how we make sense of our own. Participants will examine the role of self-awareness, relationships and human connection in supporting student growth and success.

Teachers and ESPs: building a healthy working relationship

This course provides an overview of the history and evolution of our two unique professions and highlights strategic differences both inside and outside the classroom for our licensed and non-licensed educators. Participants will leave this session with tangible strategies that help us maximize our collective impact in schools while building an environment together that fosters better outcomes for our students.

Self-monitoring interventions to support students with challenging behavior

Self-monitoring is an effective intervention to support students in academic, behavioral or social/emotional skills development, which are necessary for developing independence and self-determination. Self-monitoring interventions involve teaching students to observe and record their own behavior. Participants will learn the steps to implement this intervention and gain access to module resources.

Attendees sign the ESP Bill of Rights pledge in the 2025 MEA exhibitor hall.



Education Minnesota PAC endorses candidates in upcoming races

Over the past several weeks, Education Minnesota members across the state have participated in candidate screenings at the local and statewide levels. The Education Minnesota Political Action Committee, made up of members from across the state, has recommended the following candidates for election as of Sept. 21. Education Minnesota members are marked with an asterisk.

Make sure to check out edmnvotes.org for updates!

Governor

Amy Klobuchar

Attorney General

Keith Ellison

Secretary of State

Steve Simon

State Auditor

Zack Fillipovich

Minnesota House races

1A: Leanna Sandahl

1B: Jennifer Compeau

2A: Reed J. Olson

2B: Emily Thabes

3A: Aaron Kania

3B: Aaron Schweiger

4A: Erika Yoney

4B: Thaddeus Laugisch

6A: Samuel Grigsby

6B: Nicky Hardy

7A: Erin McCabe Ningen

7B: Dan Horoshak

8A: Peter Johnson

8B: Liish Kozlowski

9B: Owen Werner

10B: Jeff Larson

11A: Chris Swanson*

11B: Jack L'Heureux

13A: Arlis Sayler

13B: Justin Doyle

14A: Abdi Daisane

14B: Zachary "Zach" Dorholt

15B: Keith R. Klawitter

16A: David J Torgelson

16B: Julie Henslin

17B: Ben Wieman

18A: Leah Hanson

18B: Luke Frederick

19A: Martha Brown

19B: Zack Meyman

20A: Heather Arndt

21A: LS Rusty Nelson*

21B: Jon Wilson *

22A: Sonja L. Denn

22B: Mary Nesgoda

23A: Joe Staloch

23B: Christoph Dundas*

24A: Heather Holmes

24B: Tina Liebling

25A: Kim Hicks

25B: Andy Smith

26A: Dan Wilson

26B: Greg Davids

27A: Vanessa Davenport

28A: Tim Dummer

29B: Colton Kratky

30A: Joey Smyth

30B: Keenan Gentry

31A: Brian Walker

31B: Jen Bloomquist

32A: Amanda Matchett

32B: Matt Norris

33A: Angela Thompson

33B: Josiah Hill*

34B: Xp Lee

35A: Zack Stephenson

35B: Kari Rehrauer

36A: Jim DeMay

36B: Brion Curran

37A: Darci Smith

37B: Kristin Bahner

38A: Huldah Momanyi-Hiltsley

38B: Samantha Vang

39A: Aaron Klemz

39B: Amada Marquez Simula

40A: Aisha Elmquist

40B: David Gottfried

41A: Cole Birkeland

41B: Jen Fox

42A: Ned Carroll

42B: Ginny Klevorn

43A: Kyrstin Schuette

43B: Jess Lewis

44A: Peter M Fischer

45A: Tracey Breazeale

45B: Patty Acomb
 46A: Larry Kraft
 46B: Cheryl Youakim
 47A: Shelley Buck
 47B: Ethan Cha
 48A: Joe Brothers
 48B: Lucille "Lucy" Rehm
 49A: Alex Falconer
 49B: Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn
 50A: Julie Greene
 50B: Steve Elkins
 51A: Michael Howard
 51B: Nathan Coulter
 52A: Christos Roy Jensen
 52B: Bianca Virnig

53A: Mary Frances Clardy*
 53B: Rick Hansen
 54A: Brad Tabke
 54B: Christopher Kartschoke
 55A: Jessica Hanson
 55B: Hunter Cantrell
 56A: Robert Bierman
 56B: John Huot
 57A: JD Delgado
 57B: Brian Cohn
 58A: Kristi Pursell
 58B: Ed Fellows
 59A: Fue Lee
 59B: Esther Agbaje
 60A: Sydney Jordan

60B: Mohamud Noor
 61A: Katie Jones
 61B: Jamie Long
 62A: Aisha Gomez
 62B: Anquam Mahamoud
 63A: Samantha Sencer-Mura
 63B: Emma Greenman
 64A: Meg Luger-Nikolai
 64B: Dave Pinto
 65B: Sebastian Ellefson
 66A: Leigh Finke
 66B: Athena Hollins
 67A: Liz Lee

Minnesota Senate races

1: Bjorn Solberg
 2: Dan R. Rogers*
 3: Grant Hauschild
 4: Rob Kupec
 6: Denise Slipy
 7: Kim (Kotonias) McLaughlin
 8: Jen McEwen
 9: Krystyne M. Knutson
 11: Mary Carlson
 12: Kari Dorry*
 13: Trent C Dilks
 14: Aric Putnam
 15: Andrea Boettger
 16: Kathy Jorgenson
 17: Julie Kelzer
 18: Nick Frentz
 20: Jason Lohmann
 22: Marisa Ulmen
 23: Angie Hanson*
 24: Simon Glaser*

25: Liz Boldon
 26: Jack Hedin
 28: Max Glenna
 29: Louis McNutt
 30: Leah Temple
 31: Gadisa Berkessa
 32: Chris Ford
 33: Nat Smith
 34: John Hoffman
 35: Angela Nelson
 36: Heather Gustafson
 37: Kristy Janigo
 38: Susan Pha
 39: Mary K Kunesh
 40: John Marty
 42: Bonnie Westlin
 43: Mike Freiberg
 44: Sam Rosemark
 45: Ann Johnson Stewart
 47: Amanda Hemmingsen-Jaeger

48: Dan Kessler
 49: Krish Subrahmanian
 50: Karla Hult
 51: Simon Trautmann Cordova
 52: Liz Reyer
 53: Paul Cumings
 54: Rick Olson
 55: Lindsey Port
 56: Erin Maye Quade
 57: Steven Schroer
 58: Mark Legvold
 59: Bobby Joe Champion
 60: Doron Clark
 61: Scott Dibble
 62: Omar Fateh
 63: Zaynab Mohamed
 64: Erin Murphy
 65: Robyn Gulley
 66: Clare Oumou Verbeten
 67: Founq Hawj

Delegate selection for 2027 NEA Representative Assembly closes Dec. 11

The National Education Association Representative Assembly, the major decision-making body for the NEA, is scheduled to be held June 30-July 4, 2027, in Indianapolis, IN.

All active Education Minnesota members are eligible to run to be a state-credentialed delegate for the NEA RA. The filing period opens on Nov. 2 and closes Dec. 11. Do not submit the forms before the filing period begins. Forms are also available to complete and submit electronically on the Education Minnesota website.

The specific election window will be set by the Education Minnesota Elections committee this fall. These elections are held in February and March.

Nominations for state-credentialed aspiring educator delegates open Nov. 2 and close Feb. 15.

Funding information for state-credentialed delegates

To receive funding, state-credentialed delegates must be in attendance for the entire Representative Assembly, beginning with the first caucus meeting through adjournment the night of July 4. State-credentialed delegates are expected to attend all caucus meetings and to be on the convention floor for all proceedings.

Funding includes: Airfare—travel arrangements to be made through the designated travel agent and direct-billed to Education Minnesota (alternative transportation will be reimbursed up to a predetermined amount); the cost of a double-occupancy room at the delegation hotel (to be direct-billed) for an authorized number of nights; and reimbursement for meals and other convention-related expenses (with original itemized receipts). Substitute costs for state delegates working in year-round school settings will be covered as outlined in the Education Minnesota Financial Policy for Governance and Members.

Mileage to and from the airport is reimbursable at 20 cents a mile, along with the cost of airport parking.

No funding is available for Category 2 delegates, those who are retired or inactive members.

Funding information for small locals

A funding program is available to help locals with 200 or fewer members send a delegate to the Representative Assembly. Local presidents will receive information. If you have any questions about the small local grant program, please contact Secretary-Treasurer Ryan Fiereck at ryan.fiereck@edmn.org.



Education Minnesota delegates at the 2026 NEA Representative Assembly.

Filing Form for NEA RA State-Credentialed Delegate

This form must be filed with the Elections Committee of Education Minnesota. Please print clearly.

I, _____, hereby submit my name for state credentials
to the NEA RA to be held June 30-July 4, 2027 in Indianapolis.

OR

I, _____, wish to nominate _____ for state credentials to the NEA RA
to be held June 30-July 4, 2027 in Indianapolis. I further certify that the nominee is eligible for state credentials as a delegate from:

☐ **Active Member – Election District:** _____ (K-12; statewide affiliates; and school-related personnel)

☐ **Category 2** (inactive NEA life member and not an Education Minnesota Retired member)

Please complete the following information:

Name: _____ Local: _____

Home address: _____ City/State/ZIP: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____ Work phone: _____

Work email: _____ Personal email: _____

Do not submit before filing period begins on Nov. 2. Deadline is 11:59 p.m. Dec. 11, 2026.

Scan and email completed form to elections.committee@edmn.org, submit by mail to: Elections Committee, Education Minnesota, 41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103
or by fax to: 651-767-1266. If you do not receive confirmation of receipt within seven days after submitting, inquire by email to elections.committee@edmn.org.

Note: Candidates may submit a photo and statement for inclusion on the Education Minnesota website. The photo and statement
must be submitted using the online submission form at www.educationminnesota.org by **Dec. 18, 2026**.

(For official use only)

This filing form was received on _____ by _____. Membership was verified on _____ by _____.

Filing Form for NEA RA State-Credentialed Delegate: Aspiring Educator

This form must be filed with the Elections Committee of Education Minnesota. Please print clearly.

I hereby submit my name for state credentials to the NEA RA to be held June 30-July 4, 2027 in Indianapolis.

I further certify that the nominee is eligible for state credentials as a delegate from:

Aspiring Educator

(must be an Education Minnesota Aspiring Educator member)

Please complete the following information:

Name: _____ College: _____

School address: _____ City/State/ZIP: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

School email: _____ Personal email: _____

Summer address: _____ City/State/ZIP: _____

Do not submit before filing period begins on Nov. 2. Deadline is 11:59 p.m. Feb. 15, 2027.

Scan and email completed form to elections.committee@edmn.org, submit by mail to: Elections Committee, Education Minnesota, 41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103 or by fax to: 651-767-1266. If you do not receive confirmation of receipt within seven days after submitting, inquire by email to elections.committee@edmn.org.

Note: Candidates may submit a photo and statement for inclusion on the Education Minnesota website. The photo and statement
must be submitted using the online submission form at www.educationminnesota.org by **Feb. 20, 2027**.

(For official use only)

This filing form was received on _____ by _____. Membership was verified on _____ by _____.

Apply for funding for the AFT TEACH Conference

The AFT TEACH Conference, a biennial event devoted to professional development, will be held July 16-18, 2027, in Washington, D.C.

Your local president will receive an information packet from the American Federation of Teachers that includes a tentative schedule, hotel and conference registration forms.

Education Minnesota will provide funding for one member from each election district, as well as one statewide/higher education member and one education support professional member, to attend the conference. Please note that pre-conference expenses are NOT covered as part of this funding. Members who would like to apply for state funding should complete the

form found on the Education Minnesota website under "News & Events – National Meetings" by Friday, Dec. 11.

The selection of state-funded participants will be made in January 2027, and those awarded funding will be notified and sent the necessary information. Priority will be given to first-time attendees. Funding includes conference registration, airfare, hotel accommodation and meals as outlined in the Education Minnesota Financial Policy for Governance and Member.

All members are welcome to attend at their own expense.

If you have questions, contact Janel Engesser at 800-652-9073 ext. 4867 or by email at janel.engesser@edmn.org

2027 AFT TEACH Conference

July 16-18, 2027; Washington, D.C.

To be considered for a state-funded position, please fill out the AFT TEACH 2027 Funding interest form on the Education Minnesota website under "News & Events – National Meetings"

Forms must be submitted by Friday, Dec. 11. Selections will be made in January 2027. If you have problems with the online form, please contact Janel Engesser at janel.engesser@edmn.org or 651-292-4867.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)			
1. Publication Title Minnesota Educator		2. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below 09/22/2026	
3. Issue Frequency Monthly		4. Annual Subscription Price \$25	
5. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®) 41 Shoreburne Ave., Saint Paul, MN, 55103-2119			
6. Complete Mailing Address of General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) 41 Shoreburne Ave., Saint Paul, MN, 55103-2119			
7. Full Name and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank) Publisher Name and Complete Mailing Address Education Minnesota, 41 Shoreburne Ave., Saint Paul, MN, 55103-2119			
8. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address, as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address, as well as those of each individual owner.) Full Name Education Minnesota 41 Shoreburne Ave., Saint Paul, MN, 55103-2119			
9. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box Full Name None			
10. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one) ☐ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months ☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement) Full Name None			

12. Publication Title Minnesota Educator		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below 09/22/2026	
13. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		79,067	
b. Paid Circulation (Sum of 1a, 1b, and 1c)		77,463	
1a. Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above normal rate, advertiser's paid copies, and exchange copies)		79,067	
1b. Mailed in-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above normal rate, advertiser's paid copies, and exchange copies)		0	
1c. Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS® (Reg. First-Class Mail®)		0	
1d. Paid Distribution to Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (Reg. First-Class Mail®)		0	
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 1a, 1b, 1c, and 1d)		79,067	
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)		0	
e. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution in-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		0	
f. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)		0	
g. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)		0	
h. Total (Sum of 1a and 1d)		79,067	
i. Total (Sum of 1b and 1e)		77,463	
j. Total (Sum of 1c and 1f)		0	
k. Total (Sum of 1g and 1h)		79,067	
l. Total (Sum of 1i and 1j)		77,463	

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VOTE YES for more funding to Minnesota public schools

This November, your ballot will ask if Minnesota should modernize the Minnesota Constitution to get more funding to public schools—at zero cost to taxpayers. Vote YES.

The opportunity

Minnesota can provide every school district with greater and more predictable support from an asset the state already owns, without raising individual income or property taxes, while safeguarding the fund's value for future generations.

What is on the ballot

On Nov. 3, 2026, Minnesota voters will decide whether to modernize the way the Permanent School Fund supports public schools across the state. The fund is a long-standing public asset built from school trust lands and their proceeds, held in trust for students since statehood.

What the amendment does

Under the current Minnesota Constitution, only interest and dividends earned by the Permanent School Fund may be distributed to schools—meaning capital gains are locked away and cannot be paid out to districts, no matter how well the fund performs. This interest-and-dividends-only approach has resulted in historical distributions of only about 2.5% of the fund's value annually, even as the fund has averaged approximately 8% in annual investment returns over the last decade. The amendment would replace that restriction with an annual distribution equal to 4.5% of the fund's average net asset value over the prior three fiscal years, beginning July 1, 2027. This would:

- Increase distributions to every Minnesota school district and provide schools with a steadier, more predictable source of support.
- Use the fund's long-term investment performance more effectively for students today.
- Require the fund to be managed for its perpetual purpose, preserve its purchasing power over time, and balance the needs of current and future students.
- Deliver additional school funding without raising individual income or property taxes.

Why it matters

- Every student at every public school benefits. Every public school district, charter school, and tribal school district in Minnesota—Twin Cities suburbs and Greater Minnesota rural districts alike. Funding is distributed on a per-student basis, so it's proportional and fair across district sizes—and it arrives without increasing anyone's taxes.
- This has bipartisan support. The amendment reached the ballot because legislators from both parties worked across chambers and caucuses. Passing it converts bipartisan policy work into a tangible result for every legislative district and every public school district in Minnesota.
- Strong schools benefit all of Minnesota. Strong public schools strengthen Minnesota's economy, help attract jobs, and protect property values. Putting an asset we already own to better use for students is an investment every Minnesotan has a stake in.

Don't leave this question blank

Legislative approval placed the question on the ballot, but only voters can amend the Constitution and put the new distribution approach into effect.

Here is the part most voters do not know. Under Minnesota law, a constitutional amendment must be approved by a majority of everyone who votes in the election—not just a majority of the people who vote on the question itself. Skipping the question does not mean staying neutral. A ballot turned in with the amendment question left blank is counted exactly the same as a NO vote.

Blank = NO

The only way to support the amendment is to find the question on your ballot and fill in the oval next to YES. The amendment question will appear separately from the candidate races, so voters have to look for it. Find the question and mark YES.

Who is behind the campaign?

Vote Yes for MN Students is the statewide campaign working to secure voter approval in November 2026. The campaign brings together education organizations, school leaders, educators, parents, students, legislators, business and civic leaders, and community partners from across Minnesota. It is organized as the Permanent School Trust Fund Constitutional Amendment Committee.

Vote YES on November 3, 2026!

Vote YES because every student at every public school benefits, because it delivers more funding for schools at zero cost to taxpayers, and because it puts an asset Minnesota already owns to better use for students. Find the amendment question on your ballot and fill in the oval for YES.

Learn more at voteyesmnstudents.org.

Look up your district at the website above and see how much more money it would have received from the fund if the amendment had passed last year.



VOTE YES

MN STUDENTS

Election protection: What educators need to know

*By Eric Prindle, Staff Attorney, and
David Aron, General Counsel*

Election Day is approaching fast. As candidates deliver their final pitches to voters and early voting begins, we've created a refresher on Minnesota election law so that you are prepared to exercise your right to vote and help others in your community exercise theirs.

Early voting

Early in-person voting in Minnesota began on Sep. 18. If you are registered to vote, you are eligible to vote early. If you haven't already registered to vote, you can do that the day you vote by showing proof of residence. All counties have at least one early voting site, but many have multiple sites throughout the county, especially in larger cities. You can find your county's early voting location(s) www.mnvotes.gov. Early voting locations must be open the last Saturday before Election Day (10 a.m.-3 p.m.) and the day before Election Day until 5 p.m. Voting by mail remains a safe and secure way to vote. On Sep. 14, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a lower court decision striking down efforts by the Trump Administration to restrict mail-in voting. You can apply for a mail ballot now at www.mnvotes.org/absentee, and your ballot will be mailed to you as soon as it is available from your county elections office.

Reasonable time off to vote

Minnesota law requires all employers to provide employees who are eligible to vote reasonable time off, with pay, to vote on either the day of the election or during the early voting period, which began on Sep. 18. Employers cannot require employees to use vacation or other personal leave in order to be paid, but they can require employees to inform them in advance of when they will be absent as well as the reason. Interference with this right may carry criminal penalties. If an employer denies your request, contact your union representative for assistance.

This Legal Briefs column, written by Education Minnesota staff, is one of an occasional series on legal and policy developments that affect educators.

Rules for polling places

Minnesota law limits who can be present at polling places to duly appointed election judges, voters, members of the media, and one party-appointed challenger from each political party. A challenger must be a resident of Minnesota and may only challenge a voter's eligibility based on personal knowledge that the individual is not an eligible voter. Eligibility issues are resolved by the election judge. The only person who may appoint a sergeant-at-arms or summon a Minnesota peace officer to keep order at a polling place is an election judge. All other individuals must remain at least 100 feet away from the building where voting is taking place, with the exception of members of the media conducting anonymous exit polling of individuals leaving a polling place after voting.

Damaging or removing election materials is a gross misdemeanor, and the unauthorized removal of election registers, as well as damaging ballots, voter files, or election registers is a felony. If you witness these activities while you are voting, immediately notify an election judge. You may also report the incident to a non-partisan voter protection line at 1-800-OUR-VOTE.

Federal agents at polling places

Minnesota law does not explicitly authorize federal law enforcement within polling places. The head of the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division has announced that the DOJ will be sending election monitors to certain locations, including in Minnesota. This is legally permitted as long as the monitors do not interfere with voting and abide by the 100-foot rule, unless otherwise authorized by county election officials.

The Department of Homeland Security has neither confirmed nor denied plans to send ICE or other immigration enforcement agents to polling places, although Secretary Mullin has stated they will go to polling places if there is a threat or if necessary to serve a warrant.

Numerous voter protection organizations, both in Minnesota and nationwide, are prepared to intervene in the event of voter intimidation by federal agents. The goal of these organizations is not to impede law enforcement, but to ensure that every eligible voter is able to cast their ballot. If you witness intimidating behavior outside of polling places by anyone, including federal monitors or officers, you may safely and anonymously report the incident to a non-partisan voter protection hotline at 1-800-OUR-VOTE.

Schools as polling places

Minnesota law allows public elementary and secondary schools, among other locations, to be used as polling places on election day, provided the use is authorized

by a school board. Schools are also allowed to hold classes during regular hours at sites where voting occurs, but school boards and other governmental entities may not hold meetings between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. on election day, and schools may not hold school sponsored events during these hours.

The possibility of a federal presence at schools that also serve as polling places may be unnerving to students, families and staff. If you work at a school that is also a polling place, discuss any concerns with your administration and request that they share plans for notifying staff and families should federal officers appear on or near school grounds.

Getting involved

The best way for members to protect the right to vote is to participate in the democratic process by voting themselves and encouraging colleagues to vote. You can learn more about Education Minnesota's endorsed candidates and get-out-the-vote opportunities at www.edmnvotes.org.

Important dates and reminders:

- **Sept. 18 – early voting starts**
- **Nov. 3 – Election Day**
- **Your employer must provide you with reasonable paid time off to vote.**
- **Anyone except voters, election judges, members of the media, and the party-appointed challenger must stay at least 100 feet from a polling precinct.**

Take action this fall with Cornerstone Activist Network

As educators, we know public schools do more than teach lessons. They bring communities together, help young people understand the world around them and prepare students to participate fully in civic life.

From federal cuts to funding to voucher programs that seek to siphon money from public schools, that work is under attack—and educators are essential to protecting our schools, our students and the public good.

That's why this summer, Education Minnesota launched the Cornerstone Activist Network. All members are invited to join this hub for educators to connect with one another, learn together, build community and find a place in the broader movement to defend public education.

This isn't just another newsletter or listserv. The Cornerstone Activist Network will bring our members from across the state together to learn, train and take meaningful collective action.

Once you sign up, an organizer with Education Minnesota will reach out to learn more about you and how you'd like to get more involved and take action.

To join the Cornerstone Activist Network, scan the QR code below or go to edmn.me/cornerstone.



When you sign up for the Cornerstone Activist Network, you'll receive:

- A monthly e-newsletter with updates on issues facing educators across the state, opportunities to get more involved and advocate for the things you care about and other interesting tidbits.
- Invitations to convenings, trainings and collective actions happening near you.
- Opportunities to engage with other organizations across the state doing work to defend democracy.



SAVE THE DATE

Education Minnesota Collective Bargaining and Organizing Conference

**Jan. 29-30, 2027 at the
Doubletree by Hilton
Bloomington-Minneapolis South**

Negotiators, organizers and advocates will come together and learn critical organizing skills, bargaining table strategies, and build powerful local plans. Our conference will set the stage to prepare local unions to bargain for well-resourced and equitable schools, critical student supports, family-supporting compensation, quality and affordable healthcare and increased retirement security.

Questions?

Contact Andrea Cecconi at 651-604-7128 or andrea.cecconi@edmn.org.



NEA Member^{*} Exclusive

A Trusted and Valuable Benefit

As an NEA member, did you know you receive \$1,000 of term life insurance at **no cost** to you? You're already enrolled in the NEA® Complimentary Life Insurance Plan, but it's a good time to make sure you've selected a beneficiary.

When you do, you can have some peace of mind that your loved ones will receive their benefit in a time of need. This unique benefit helps ensure educators like you have additional coverage beyond what may be provided through your district. It's just one of the many ways your union membership works hard for you.

**Scan the code or go to
neamb.com/mycomp for a
quick and easy path to update
your beneficiary information.**



^{*}Must maintain NEA membership. This coverage is offered to Active, Reserve and Staff members, as well as to Life and Retired members who are actively employed in education.

DT261026

Political Action Committee Refund Request

Thousands of members of Education Minnesota choose to contribute to the union's political action committee.

The PAC is one of our main tools to bring educators' voices to the policy debate by electing people who will listen. Those PAC dollars go back to local unions to help them win school board and levy elections, as well as support pro-public education candidates at the local and state levels.

In accordance with Education Minnesota Bylaw Article 2, Section 3, Subd. b, I hereby request the following:

_____ Please refund to me my \$30 PAC assessment that would otherwise be contributed to the general account of Education Minnesota Political Action Committee for the 2026-27 academic year.

Non-U.S. citizens should request this refund.

**ALL OF THE FOLLOWING FIELDS ARE
REQUIRED. PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY.**

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Local/Affiliate: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

A request for refund of the Education Minnesota Political Action Committee assessment will not affect membership rights or benefits. Retired, reserve, substitute and student members are not assessed, thus do not qualify for the refund.

DEADLINE FOR REFUNDS:

Refund requests MUST be received by Education Minnesota:

- 1) By Oct. 31 for continuing members; or
- 2) Within 30 days of signing a membership application for new members.

**Checks will not be mailed until
the end of November, after all
forms have been processed.**

ORIGINAL SIGNATURE NEEDED.

Return this form to:
Education Minnesota Accounting Department
Attn: Refund Request
41 Sherburne Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55103-2196

Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning Refund Request

Contributions to this foundation will provide financial support for innovative programs initiated by Education Minnesota members, locals and affiliates that promote educational access for learners and excellence in teaching. Grants also support professional development for education support professionals and higher education faculty.

In accordance with Education Minnesota Bylaw Article 2, Section 3, Subd. c, I hereby request the following:

_____ Please refund to me my \$5 foundation assessment that would otherwise be contributed to the Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning for the 2026-27 academic year.

**ALL OF THE FOLLOWING FIELDS ARE
REQUIRED. PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY.**

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Local/Affiliate: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

A request for refund of the Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning assessment will not affect Education Minnesota membership rights or benefits, however, it will make you ineligible to receive a grant from this foundation during this academic year. Retired, reserve, substitute and student members are not assessed, and thus do not qualify for the refund.

DEADLINE FOR REFUNDS:

Refund requests must be received by the Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning:

- 1) By Oct. 31 for continuing members; or
- 2) Within 30 days of signing a membership application for new members.

**Checks will not be mailed until
the end of November, after all
forms have been processed.**

ORIGINAL SIGNATURE NEEDED.

Return this form to:
Education Minnesota Accounting Department
Attn: Refund Request
41 Sherburne Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55103-2196



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

Education Minnesota
41 Sherburne Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55103

Teacher of the Year nominations are open!

*Nominations for Teacher of the Year
are open until November 1.*

Eligible nominees must meet these criteria:

- *Teach in a public or nonpublic Pre-K through 12th-grade school or ECCE or Adult Basic Education program, working at least 50 percent of the time directly with students.*
- *Hold a bachelor's degree and a Minnesota teaching license.*
- *Have completed at least five full years of teaching by the nomination deadline.*
- *Intend to teach in Minnesota during the 2026-27 school year.*

The Minnesota Teacher of the Year is in its 63rd year as the state's official recognition program honoring excellence in education.

The Minnesota Teacher of the Year represents the profession as an advocate for education and spokesperson for teachers. The recipient makes presentations, meets with policymakers and attends frequent meetings.

Education Minnesota organizes and underwrites the program, which means the union handles only the business of running the program, not the selection process.

Find out more about the selection process, eligibility, past recipients and more at www.educationminnesota.org/news/awards-and-honors/teacher-of-the-year.

Minnesota
TEACHER
of the **YEAR**