

MINNESOTA EDUCATOR

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2018

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NEW LOOK**

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EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS



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THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

August/September 2018 – Volume 21, No. 1

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 paper is printed in LSC Communications' union shop in Menasha, Wisconsin. Find copies of the Educator online at www.educationminnesota.org. Go to the News menu, then Minnesota Educator.

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Email: susan.lynskey@edmn.org
Phone: 651-292-4805

By web: www.educationminnesota.org and choose
the Contact Us link to send a change of address.

To inquire about advertising in the Educator or on the website

Email: ilissa.morrow@edmn.org
Phone: 651-292-4864

For general inquiries and business at the state headquarters

Phone: 800-652-9073 or 651-227-9541
For information about union activities, work and
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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.

President: **Denise Specht**

Vice President: **Paul Mueller**

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Executive Director: **Sara Gjerdrum**

Director of Public Affairs: **Brandon Rettke**

Editor: **Kieren Steinhoff**

Art Director: **Eric Widi**



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*The Campaign 2018 coverage in this issue
is an independent expenditure prepared
and paid for by Education Minnesota PAC,
41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103,
in support of the named candidates.
The independent expenditure material
is not approved by the candidate nor
are the candidates responsible for it.*

WE NEED TO RESPOND TO POLITICS OF DIVISION

The first month of the school year can be exciting and overwhelming. New students and new material can be a challenge. Watching the unique rhythms of each classroom develop is fascinating.

Because there's so much going on, it can also be easy to miss the cues when students are in distress. It can be even more difficult when you don't yet know their personalities, or whether their behaviors are changing because of the summer break.

Nonetheless, educators need to keep our eyes open this fall. The same conditions that caused an outbreak of bullying and racial attacks in our worksites in 2016 are starting to form again.

Two years ago, the national political rhetoric reached a point where many students felt they had permission to bully and harass other students based on race, immigration status, gender and sexual orientation. Educators tried to stop it, but we weren't always successful.

The Teacher Tolerance project of the Southern Poverty Law Center surveyed more than 10,000 educators after the 2016 election. Ninety percent of them reported the campaign made their school climate less conducive to learning.

Since then, the Trump administration has done little to reassure our students and their families. The policy of separating families at the border speaks for itself, as do the searing images of children held behind chain link

fences and recordings of kids crying out for their parents.

Further, the Trump administration recently proposed a change to immigration policy that editors of the Star Tribune called "shortsighted and cruel."

The administration would punish documented immigrants for accessing Medicaid, food stamps, housing assistance, subsidies to buy health insurance and other assistance programs by denying them temporary visas or permanent residency. Even use of these services by U.S.-born children of immigrants, or their citizen-spouses, would trigger the penalty.

The newspaper reported that public health nurses in Minnesota have already seen families wanting to pull their U.S.-born children out of health care and nutrition programs. For educators, this will mean more fearful, hungry and, probably, sick children in our schools.

The campaign for governor will play out against this backdrop. We can hope the candidates' will compete on their visions for lifting up all Minnesotans. Unfortunately, that is not how some campaigns have started.

We're already seeing the coded appeals to race in campaign ads that describe immigrants only as violent killers, or ads that shame people living in poverty for seeking out health care.

This rhetoric degrades our teaching and learning environments. As educators, we must respond.

We can watch for the signs of students who are upset, shutting down or not coming to school. There are excellent resources at teachingtolerance.org.

We will remind folks that no matter our differences, most of us want similar things. Jobs that sustain families. A good education for Minnesota kids. Health care when we need it. Retirement with dignity.

People forget the things that unite us when politicians scare them all the time. So we just need to say out loud that Minnesota's strength comes from our ability to be there for each other—to knit together people from different places and of different races into a community.

For our state to be a place of freedom for everyone, we cannot let the greedy few, and the politicians they pay for, divide us. Together, we can make our state a place where freedom and community are for everyone—no exceptions.

That's our story. It's a good one for educators to tell and it's a good one for our students to hear us tell.

Together,



Twitter: @DeniseSpecht



Denise Specht

IO fall drive-ins starting soon

Many of Education Minnesota's local intermediate organizations will soon be hosting professional development sessions called fall drive-ins.

The function of fall drive-ins is to bring training, relicensure and continuing education unit opportunities to the IO's members.

Session topics at some of this year's fall drive-ins include developing nurturing and professional relationships, financial planning for beginners, social media and student safety, bargaining communications, legal updates, treasurer trainings and how to deal with workplace bullying.

For more information about a fall drive-in in your area, talk to your local president or Education Minnesota field staff.

Go to www.educationminnesota.org/events.aspx or check out the event page on the new Education Minnesota mobile app (read more on page 6) to see a calendar listing trainings offered in your area and around the state.

Getting social!

Educators use social media as a way to connect with their communities, colleagues and the world. We will feature one Education Minnesota member's post each issue! Make sure to follow Education Minnesota on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube and Pinterest!



Where are you reading your Minnesota Educator?

Our summer contest was a huge hit! Thank you to everyone who sent in a photo. We had more than 100 submissions showing the Minnesota Educator traveling all over the world! **Congratulations, Marci Greisen from Le Sueur for winning the first contest!** See more of the submissions on page 20.

We're going to keep the contest going! Email a photo to educator@edmn.org or share it on social media using #mneducator of where you are reading your Minnesota Educator to be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift card! Submissions are due Sept. 10. Happy reading!



Members in the news!

Educator Minnesota members are often interviewed in their local newspapers or TV station. We will feature a quote each issue!



I'm running into a lot of kids who believe that GMOs are bad, that 'big ag' is bad. So dispelling myths is one of the first things we talk about. And I do that through science, because there's so much science to back up conventional farming practices.



— Amy Mastin, who will be teaching this year at Kelliher, in the Bemidji Pioneer article, "Teachers and students work to connect agriculture and science" on July 23.

A hand is visible in the background, reaching upwards with fingers slightly spread, set against a solid blue background. The hand appears to be part of a larger group, as another hand is partially visible on the left side.

NEW SCHOOL BRINGS EXCIT CHANGES TO THE UNION

“Choose Union” is not just a hashtag anymore for Minnesota’s educators, but a real decision about joining their colleagues to improve their lives, both at work and at home. As the new school year begins, Education Minnesota is also changing the way we look at our programming, resources and communications.

If you are reading this, the first change should be pretty clear. The Minnesota Educator has moved from a monthly newspaper to an every-other-month magazine. This will allow us to share more feature stories about exciting things happening with union members in classrooms, schools and on campuses across the state. We will be moving more of our news content online to our website and social media channels. Read more about how you can get up-to-date education news and more about the new Minnesota Educator and another new way to stay connected, a mobile app, on pages 6-7.

The value of being a union member is seen in professional development opportunities provided

by your local union, intermediate organization, Education Minnesota and our national unions, the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers.

Members will see a heightened emphasis on unionism in the trainings offered in our new world. Additionally, to reflect member interest in racial and social justice, we are offering more racial equity professional development sessions at our trainings.

Members may also see an emphasis on pre-registration at events, like the MEA conference on Oct. 18, because these trainings will be open to members only. Read more about registering for MEA on page 20.

YEAR TING



Ingrid Miera, an education support professional in Osseo, shows her commitment to her union at Summer Seminar this August.

Although the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to allow public-sector employees to benefit from a collective bargaining agreement without paying for it is deeply disappointing and will impose new challenges and costs on unions, the outcome was expected and will not destroy Education Minnesota or the labor movement.

In partnership with our locals, Education Minnesota has done extensive organizing and held thousands of individual conversations across in the state to engage members around the value of belonging to their union.

Across the country, more educators and individuals in other employment sectors are choosing union than ever before. Since January 2016 alone, 23 new locals around the state, representing approximately 1,500 educators, have voted to join Education Minnesota.

In addition, public support for unions continues to increase. A Gallup poll conducted in the summer of 2017 found that 61 percent of adults held a favorable opinion of unions, the highest level of support since 2003.

For the first time in many years, the year 2017 saw a net increase in the number of Americans represented by unions over the previous year.

This Supreme Court decision is likely to generate new energy and urgency for greater grassroots organizing and activism by unions to combat the increasing influence of wealthy elites and a harmful "everybody-for-themselves" mentality.

Learn more about Education Minnesota and the value of belonging to our union at www.educationminnesota.org/member-benefits and www.educationminnesota.org/advocacy.

THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT: EDUCATION MINNESOTA GOES MOBILE

Stay up to date, find events, get a digital membership card and more on Education Minnesota's new mobile app.

The free app is now available for all iOS and Android devices – including tablets.

For decades, Education Minnesota has been the champion of public education statewide. With our mobile app, that work continues in the palm of your hand. This is a tool for members to stay informed and connect with their union like never before.

APP FEATURES:

- Stay up to date on union news and events
- View member benefits and discounts
- Obtain a digital membership card with scannable QR code

Download

1. Search for "EdMN" or "Education Minnesota" in the app store on your device.

Get your digital membership card

1. Tap on the "Membership Card" icon.
2. Tap "List of Locals" to find the official name of your local.
Some of them are long and complicated!
3. Tap "My Membership Card," then enter your first name, last name and the official name of your local.
4. Problems? Contact us at 800-652-9073 or webmaster@edmn.org.

- Join Education Minnesota
- Find Education Minnesota offices
- Read the Minnesota Educator magazine on your device

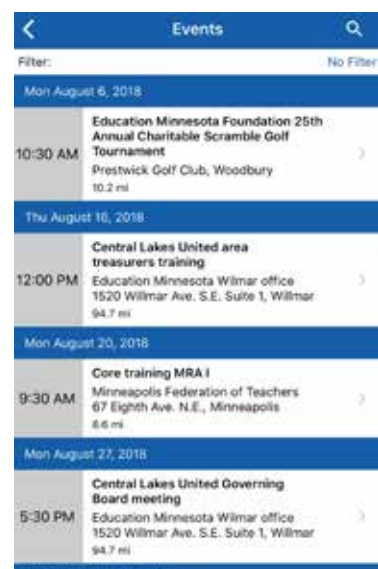
- Connect with Education Minnesota's website and social media accounts



The home screen of the app allows users to easily interact with their union.



Get a digital membership card to use when registering for events and other member benefits.



The event calendar features local and statewide union trainings and events.

GET EDUCATION NEWS IN NEW WAYS

The Minnesota Educator magazine

Education Minnesota's official publication is taking on a new look and a new frequency. You are reading the new Minnesota Educator magazine, which will be coming to your mailbox six times a year.

The new publication schedule will be: August/September, October/November, December/January, February/March, April/May and June/July.

The new format and frequency allows Education Minnesota to still share important news from your union, but also focus on longer feature stories about union members doing outstanding work in classrooms and on campuses across the state.

We want this publication to be a valuable resource for you and your work, so please send any story ideas or suggestions to educator@edmn.org. The Minnesota Educator also accepts guest commentaries and letters to the editor.

Find other news, updates online

Education Minnesota wants to make sure its members can find relevant news and updates in between issues of the new Minnesota Educator.

Important and timely stories, videos and links will be posted on Education Minnesota's website and social media channels.

Where to find your education news:

Website: www.educationminnesota.org/news.aspx#education-headlines

Facebook: www.facebook.com/EducationMinnesota

Twitter: www.twitter.com/EducationMN

Instagram: www.instagram.com/educationminnesota



EDUCATOR APPRECIATION NIGHT

WILD vs LIGHTNING
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20
7 PM



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS



The Minnesota Wild are pleased to host educators and their family and friends to honor them for the work they do in developing the future leaders of our State of Hockey community.

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Questions: Alena Jasinski | 651-312-3405 | ajasinski@wild.com

THIS IS OUR ICE

ESSA PLAN IMPLEMENTATION BEGINS

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) will begin to be implemented in Minnesota this fall. The Minnesota Department of Education and Education Minnesota have been working together, making sure educator voices have been heard throughout the planning and now implementation process.

Below is a question and answer about Minnesota's ESSA plan with Michael Diedrich, an ESSA policy specialist at MDE, Paul Winkelaar of Education Minnesota and Holly Schultz, M.S.E., a school psychologist in Burnsville-Eagan-Savage who attended an ESSA training at Summer Seminar.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHANGE THAT EDUCATORS WILL SEE THIS YEAR?

MD: Overall, educators will see a shift in how Minnesota identifies schools and districts for support and how we recognize schools and districts for doing well. We are using a few additional measurements when identifying schools and districts for support, including one—consistent attendance—that can open the door to deeper conversations about students' experiences outside of tested subjects.

We'll be recognizing success for each of these measurements in August, and adding more areas for recognition over the course of the school year to highlight success in areas like school climate, early learning, career and college readiness. Teachers in schools and districts identified

for support will see opportunities to get involved in digging into the root causes of student performance, with the goal of getting beneath and beyond test scores.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ESSA AND NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND?

MD: When it comes to identifying schools and districts, there are a couple of big differences:

- Unlike the days of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), schools and districts that are identified for support will receive support that is customized to their specific students, staff and community. School leaders and staff will be part of the conversation from the beginning and will shape the ultimate plan for improvement. Schools won't be limited to a small number of options like they were under AYP.
- The state is no longer compressing all accountability indicators into a single number like was done in the Multiple Measurements Rating (MMR) system. Each indicator is calculated and reported separately, which allows each person looking at a school to decide which indicators—if any—are most meaningful to them. This approach also avoids giving the impression that the state has managed to compress everything important about the school into a single number. The purpose of the new accountability system is to

prioritize schools for support, not offer a comprehensive judgment about a school.

- After a school is identified for support, most of the first year after identification will be focused on plan development and getting ready for implementation rather than asking for a plan to be put together in a few weeks as happened under NCLB.
- English learners' progress toward English language proficiency is now a part of the accountability system, which may increase attention to how well schools are serving English learners.
- We are calculating seven-year graduation rates for the first time, which are more meaningful for some schools, such as transition programs for some students in special education.

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT TESTING, IF AT ALL?

MD: ESSA does maintain the same requirements that NCLB did around testing. Just like NCLB, the state must meet those requirements to receive its Title I funds from ESSA. Additionally, the requirements ESSA creates around calculating academic achievement for accountability purposes mean that the new accountability system includes students who opt out or otherwise don't have a valid score in the calculation of academic achievement. Students in those situations are included in the same way as students who

are not proficient on the tests.

Elsewhere on the Minnesota Report Card, we will still show the proficiency rate just for students with valid scores. We will also start reporting the participation rate to help people have the proper context for interpreting the academic achievement rates on the accountability side of things.

WHAT ARE THE ACCOUNTABILITY INDICATORS?

MD: Math and reading achievement are calculated and reported separately from each other (not combined into a single "proficiency" measurement like they were under the MMR). For each one, we look at the number of students who exceed or meet standards on the MCA or MTAS tests divided by the number who exceed, meet, partially meet, or do not meet standards and those with no valid score. In other words, it's the percentage of students who proved they were proficient by taking the MCA or MTAS and scoring at Exceeds Standards or Meets Standards.

- Progress toward English language proficiency looks at the amount of progress English learners make toward individualized growth targets on customized paths to proficiency using the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 or Alternative ACCESS for ELLs test.
- Math and reading progress, again calculated separately from each other, look at changes in students' achievement levels from one year to the next. This is different from the MMR's growth measurement, which used a calculation called growth z-scores that wound up showing a lot of statistical "noise" and

which wasn't based on students' achievement levels. This will only be used for elementary and middle schools. It is not used for high schools because of the amount of time between the student's eighth grade test and their high school test, especially when students move between high schools before taking the high school test.

- Four-year and seven-year graduation rates are used for high schools. If a student drops out of a high school after spending less than half a year at the school, they will count as a dropout at whichever high school they spent the most time. (This only applies to dropouts and only after less than half a school year.)
- Consistent attendance is the percentage of students who are not chronically absent. A student must attend more than 90 percent of the time to be considered consistently attending.

WHAT DOES BEING AN "IDENTIFIED SCHOOL" MEAN?

MD: Identified schools work with staff from the Regional Centers of Excellence to dig into local data and information that's deeper and broader than the accountability indicators themselves. From there, they can identify root causes of what they're seeing in student experiences and performance, come up with their top priorities and find evidence-based strategies to help them improve in their prioritized areas. No one is going to tell the school what they must do; this is collaborative work customized to the school's individual context.

WHAT CAN EDUCATORS DO IF THEY WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN IMPLEMENTATION OR ANY FURTHER REVIEW OF THE PLAN?

PW: Educators should become a part of their school improvement team and help recruit parents and families to participate in selecting the best improvement strategies for their school. It is important to get an understanding of the role that their local union can play in ESSA. They should complete and engage communities and families in a comprehensive needs assessment. To pick the best school improvement strategies, we must first find out what we need.

HS: We absolutely need to ask what our district's strategic advisory committee plan is and how can we get on it. Through ESSA, every district is required to have a strategic advisory committee that consists of community members, parents, students and staff. This committee should not be comprised only of administrators. The intent is to build the capacity of the community by shaping how the district will use ESSA. It's important all voices are heard and this is a great opportunity for us through ESSA.

HOW CAN MY UNION HELP ME NAVIGATE THESE CHANGES?

PW: Education Minnesota will be creating documents, hosting webinars and offering training to help locals and members understand and implement ESSA. Contact me at paul.winkelaar@edmn.org for any information you need or with any questions.

EDUCATION MINNESOTA ENDORSED CANDIDATES

Education Minnesota screening teams have recommended the following candidates for election, as of Aug. 1. More endorsements will be available at www.educationminnesota.org after the Aug. 14 primary.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CD1: Dan Feehan

CD2: Angie Craig

CD3: Dean Phillips

CD4: Betty McCollum

STATE AUDITOR

Julie Blaha

SECRETARY OF STATE

Steve Simon

MINNESOTA HOUSE

1A: Stephen Moeller, Thief River Falls

1B: Brent Lindstrom, East Grand Forks

3A: Robert Ecklund, International Falls

3B: Mary Murphy, Hermantown

4A: Ben Lien, Moorhead

4B: Paul Marquart, Dilworth

5B: Pat Medure, Grand Rapids

6A: Julie Sandstede, Hibbing

7A: Jennifer Schultz, Duluth

7B: Liz Olson, Duluth

8B: Gail Kulp, Alexandria

9A: Alex Hering, Pillager

9B: Stephen Browning, Little Falls

10A: Dale Menk, Brainerd

10B: Phil Yetzer, Crosby

12A: Murray Smart, Beardsley

13A: Jim Read, Avon

14A: Aric Putnam, St. Cloud

14B: Dan Wolgamott, St. Cloud

15A: Emy Minzel, Princeton

15B: Jessica Filiaggi, Foley

16A: Tom Wyatt-Yerka, Marshall

16B: Mindy Kimmel, New Ulm

17A: Lyle Koenen, Clara City

17B: Anita Flowe, Willmar

18A: Dean Urdahl, Grove City

18B: Ashley Latzke, Gaylord

19A: Jeff Brand, St. Peter

19B: Jack Considine, Mankato

20A: Barbara Droher Kline, New Prague

21B: Jonathan Isenor, Wanamingo

22A: Maxwell Kaufman, Fulda

22B: Cheniqua Johnson, Worthington

23A: Heather Klassen, Butterfield

23B: James Grabowska, St. Clair

24A: Joseph Heegard, Owatonna

24B: Yvette Marthaler, Faribault

25A: Jamie Mahlberg, Rochester

25B: Duane Sauke, Rochester

26A: Tina Liebling, Rochester

26B: Tyrel Clark, Eyota

27A: Terry Gjersvik, Alden

27B: Jean Poppe, Austin

28A: Gene Pelowski, Winona

29A: Renee Cardarelle, Annandale

29B: Sharon McGinty, Buffalo

30A: Sarah Hamlin, Elk River

30B: Margaret Fernandez, St. Michael

31A: Brad Brown, Princeton

32A: Renae Berg, Rush City
 32B: Jeff Peterson, Wyoming
 33A: Norrie Thomas, Wayzata
 33B: Kelly Morrison, Deephaven
 34A: Daniel Solon, Rogers
 34B: Kristin Bahner, Maple Grove
 35A: Bill Vikander, Ramsey
 35B: Kathryn Eckhardt, Andover
 36A: Zachary Stephenson, Coon Rapids
 36B: Melissa Hortman, Brooklyn Park
 37A: Erin Koegel, Spring Lake Park
 37B: Amir Malik, Blaine
 38A: Kevin Fogarty, Centerville
 39B: Shelly Christensen, Stillwater
 40A: Michael Nelson, Brooklyn Park
 40B: Cindy Yang, Brooklyn Park
 41A: Connie Bernardy, New Brighton
 41B: Mary Kunesch-Podein, New Brighton
 42A: Kelly Moller, Shoreview
 42B: Jamie Becker-Finn, Roseville
 43A: Peter Fischer, Maplewood
 43B: Leon Lillie, North St. Paul
 44A: Ginny Klevorn, Plymouth
 44B: Patty Acomb, Minnetonka
 45A: Lyndon Carlson, Crystal
 45B: Mike Freiberg, Golden Valley

46A: Ryan Winkler, Golden Valley
 46B: Cheryl Youakim, Hopkins
 47A: Madalynn Gerold, Chaska
 47B: Donzel Leggett, Chaska
 48A: Laurie Pryor, Minnetonka
 48B: Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn, Eden Prairie
 49A: Heather Edelson, Edina
 49B: Steve Elkins, Bloomington
 50B: Andrew Carlson, Bloomington
 51A: Sandra Masin, Eagan
 51B: Laurie Halverson, Eagan
 52A: Rick Hansen, South St. Paul
 52B: Ruth Richardson, Mendota Heights
 53A: Tou Xiong, Woodbury
 53B: Stephen Sandell, Woodbury
 54A: Anne Claflin, South St. Paul
 54B: Tina Folch, Hastings
 55A: Brad Tabke, Shakopee
 56A: Hunter Cantrell, Savage
 56B: Alice Mann, Lakeville
 57A: Robert Bierman, Apple Valley
 57B: John Huot, Rosemount
 66A: Alice Hausman, Roseville

MINNESOTA SENATE

13 (special election): Joe Perske, Sartell



MSCF LOOKS AHEAD TO NEW UNION WORLD

The Minnesota State College Faculty held its annual leadership conference in August, focusing on the importance of the upcoming election and our new union world. "Everyone was engaged and demonstrated that we fully understand the challenges that we have and that we can adapt to the changing world," said Matt Williams, MSCF vice president.



SUMMER SEMINAR 2018

The annual professional development conference featured both union-leadership and classroom-focused workshops, as well as networking opportunities. More than 550 educators attended, including 279 who attended for the first time.



Why are professional development opportunities, like Summer Seminar, an important reason to belong to Education Minnesota?



"I get the information first-hand from people who support me, and I support them."

— **Tom Whalen, Byron Education Association**



"The union is helping us. My union dues are being spent on me."

— **Carolyn Wade and Kelly Kimbell, Robbinsdale Federation of Teachers**



"Being able to have a big, reliable resource to help us is important. It's great to network and meet people in a variety of different roles."

— **Elizabeth Tobias, Twin Cities German Immersion ESPs**

Political Action Committee Refund Request

Thousands of members of Education Minnesota decide to contribute to the union's political action committee. The PAC is one of our main tools to bring the educator voice to the policy debate by electing people who will listen. Those PAC dollars are used to win local levies and to back candidates and organizations that support lower class sizes, high standards and professional educators.

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

_____ Please refund to me \$25 of my contribution to Education Minnesota's dues that will be contributed to the general account of Education Minnesota Political Action Committee for the 2018-19 academic year.

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

Name: _____

Last 4 digits of SS#: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Local/Affiliate: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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

DEADLINE FOR REFUNDS:

Refund requests MUST be received by the Education Minnesota Political Action fund:

- 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.

NO PHOTOCOPIES ACCEPTED.

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

Members drive PAC work, support

The Education Minnesota Political Action Committee (PAC) is a group of members from across the state who guide our union's political and election programs. It is not affiliated with any political party.

The PAC is governed by a board comprised of one representative from each Education Minnesota Election District, plus one higher education/statewide affiliate and one ESP representative.

This year, the PAC members decided on a values framework to guide a process that will elect a pro-public education governor, develop more grassroots political activists and build affinity toward union membership.

Members across the state are engaging the with campaign in record numbers—attending political conferences, submitting questions for the candidate questionnaires, being trained as worksite action leaders and committing to help get their colleagues to vote this fall.

Find your PAC representative, including their contact information, at <http://bit.ly/edmnvotes>.

The PAC also makes funds available to local unions for use in campaigns directly affecting their community and school district. To be eligible, at least 90 percent of a local's members must be contributing to the PAC.

Education Minnesota can also help locals with creating literature, lists and scripts for phone banking and connecting you with the larger labor community in your area to work on the campaign.

Last November, the Duluth Federation of Teachers knew they needed to get active in their local school board race. The local endorsed four candidates and saw them all elected.

"People saw the community working with the DFT, labor organizations and Education Minnesota. This is a partnership, and the work that you put into it pays off," said DFT President Bernie Burnham, after the election.

Contact Education Minnesota at 651-292-4875 to find out how your local can access the funds available for local elections.

OSSEO ESPS COLLECT BOATLOADS OF BOOKS FOR STUDENTS IN NEED

Becky Hespen knows the value of putting a book in the hands of a child.

So when she heard about the Osseo district's Freedom Schools program, which works on closing the literacy achievement gap during the summer, she knew she wanted to help.

"The district said they always need adults to read to kids at Freedom Schools," said Hespen, local president of Education Minnesota-Osseo ESps. "We wanted to get volunteers to do that, but I started to think, what if we got a book for each kid to take home?"

Hespen sent out word to her members that as a spring member engagement activity, the local would be collecting books for the students attending the Freedom Schools program.

"We had about a month to do it," said Hespen. "We put out the word to the building reps, who got it out to all our ESps."

The Freedom Schools serve about 300 kids each summer, so Hespen's goal was 300 books.

They donated almost 1,300—1,281 to be exact.

"For every kid, they could get more than one book, three books actually, that they could take home and keep forever," said Hespen.

Education Minnesota-Osseo ESP Vice President Michelle Dennard worked at one of the Freedom Schools this summer and saw firsthand how the book donation impacted the students.

"The kids were so happy about taking books home," she said. "They wanted to learn and brush up on their reading skills. They took a lot of books home that will help get them ready for the next school year."

The Freedom Schools program is a part of the Children's Defense Fund.

"By providing summer and after-school reading enrichment for children who might otherwise not have access to books, the CDF Freedom Schools program plays a much needed role in helping to curb summer learning loss and close achievement



Tina Collins helped sort the 1,281 books donated by Education Minnesota-Osseo ESP members, which were then given to students participating in the district's Freedom Schools program.

gaps," according to the program's website.

Freedom Schools have been in the Osseo district since 2014 and there were three sites this summer.

"I saw so many students just happy to be there," said Dennard. "Kids weren't even wanting to leave."

Dennard said she helped students who needed one-on-one support with reading, but they also went on field trips, did science and history programming and put on a big performance at the end of the summer.

"Students were able to see that books are fun and develop that love of reading," she said.

The fact that her union was taking the initiative to make sure the kids had books to take home and read meant a lot to Dennard.

"It just shows me how much the union cares," she said. "Education is so important to us that we wanted give students the tools. They didn't have to do it and they did it to help students."



Education Minnesota-Osseo ESP President Becky Hespen (left) and ESP member Joan Roberson (right) sorted the donated books into age appropriate groups.

Hespen said a lot of the ESPs went into the libraries at their worksites and took the books that were gently used and would have otherwise been thrown away.

"Members were very excited about the fact that all those books that would have been thrown away had a place to go," she said.

There is also a Scholastic warehouse in the Osseo district that has a buy one, get one free sale in the spring where ESPs bought a lot of the books they donated.

Once all the books were donated at the Education Minnesota-Osseo office, Hespen and other ESPs sorted them by age appropriateness.

"People cleaned out their fifth-grade reading curriculum books and we made 290 sets of the small pamphlet books for the older kids," Hespen said.

They delivered the books to the district office who distributed them at all of the Freedom School sites.

"ESP's have always been really generous," said Hespen. "They work one-on-one with the kids, so they are often more aware of the needs that are out there."

The Education Minnesota-Osseo ESPs also do a clothing drive in the fall, collecting mittens, hats and socks for the homeless youth in their district, as well as adult sizes for their parents.



WADENA-DEER CREEK SCIENCE TEACHER SPENDS SUMMER IN SPACE

Brad Wollum lived out his childhood dream this summer—attending Space Camp.

Wollum, a science teacher at Wadena-Deer Creek Middle-High School, had applied for the Honeywell Educators at Space Academy program for the last two years, and was accepted this year to receive an all-expenses paid week at Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama.

"The whole experience was fascinating," Wollum said. "It was by far the best professional development I've ever experienced."

Wollum said his week included mostly hands-on, physical training, with a few lectures. He attended the camp with 99 other educators from all over the world.

"We met astronauts and learned about robotics, engineering and history," Wollum said.

The educators were put into teams. Wollum was a part of Team Harmony.

The team built and launched rockets, did a mock mission to both Mars and the International Space Station, went on the multi-access trainer and zip-lined into water to simulate a parachute landing.

"With the missions, you had to really work together," Wollum said. "Some people were on mission control and some people were on the space station."

Team Harmony took home the award for best overall mission.

"It was quite the honor," Wollum said. "We got an extra pin and certificate at the graduation ceremony."

While being spun around on the multi-access trainer was amazing, the biggest takeaway for Wollum was meeting the other educators on his team.

"We set up a group chat and a day hasn't gone by that we haven't spoken," he said. "You have a person from Russia talking to a person from South Africa talking to a person from Indonesia talking to me."

And since they are all educators, the conversation includes sharing classroom resources.



Wadena-Deer Creek science teacher Brad Wollum spent a week at Space Camp, thanks to the Honeywell Educators at Space Academy program.

"You compare your classrooms and how you design experiments," Wollum said. "I emailed myself a list of all the new ideas that I want to use."

Wollum said the members of his team also want to bring their students together.

"We want to do experiments together now," he said. "My students start it, ship it to another country and their class does the other half. We've talked about Skyping with the different classrooms or making videos to share."

While it took two years for Wollum to be accepted into the program, he is glad he never gave up.

"Be persistent," he said. "I knew I wouldn't probably get in the first time, but I put a reminder on the calendar to do it again next year."

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 \$ _____ (maximum \$5) of my Education Minnesota foundation assessment that will be contributed to the Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning for the 2018-19 academic year.

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

Name: _____

Last 4 digits of SS#: _____

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 but will make you ineligible to receive a grant from this foundation. Retired members are not assessed, 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.**

NO PHOTOCOPIES ACCEPTED.

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

Foundation awards almost \$5 million in grants in 25-year history

The Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning is the major source of grants through the union that is open only to active members. The foundation offers grants for professional development, classroom projects and scholarships for members pursuing National Board Certified Teacher status.

The Education Minnesota foundation is built on members helping members. By contributing only \$5 a year through dues, any active member is eligible to seek grant funding for such things as innovative classroom programming, a professional development opportunity and more.

In 2017-18, the foundation funded 141 projects totaling \$330,147.62.

In the 25 years since it was formed, the foundation has granted \$4,795,572.13 across 1,736 projects.

The foundation board, which evaluates proposals and decides the awards, is comprised of Education Minnesota members.

The foundation also receives funding support from an annual golf tournament sponsored by Education Minnesota ESI. This August's tournament raised \$44,048, for a total of \$764,854 since inception.

The 2018-19 grant application deadlines:

- Professional development grants for teachers, ESPs and higher education faculty are awarded twice a year – Nov. 2 and April 5
- National Board Certified Teachers Scholarship – Nov. 2
- The Bruce Vento Science Educator Professional Development Grant – Dec. 14
- Classroom-focused grants – Dec. 14
- IMPACT grants to partner a nonprofit with the local union or school district – Jan. 11

For more information on the grants, how to apply, the grant-making process and grantee spotlights, go to www.edmnfoundation.org.

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Professional development

IT EDUCATORS' CONFERENCE

The annual ITEM (Information and Technology Educators of Minnesota) conference will be held Oct. 25-27 in Alexandria. Charlie Miller from Flipgrid is the keynote speaker and there will be sessions all day led by media specialists and technology integrationists. To learn more or register, go to <http://mnitem.org/2018-Fall>.

SCIENCE TEACHERS' CONFERENCE

The Minnesota Science Teachers Association's annual professional development conference is Nov. 8-10 in St. Cloud. Presentations, exhibits and keynote speakers will be the focus of Friday while Saturday will include workshops and more. For more information about the conference or how to register, go to www.mnsta.org.

Classroom resources

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS

Reach for the Stars is a guide with more than 100 academic enrichment programs and activities to supplement classroom learning and help students discover and develop their interests, passions and talents. Reach for the Stars is available as a service from Synergy & Leadership Exchange and the Minnesota Academic League. Download a copy at www.synergyexchange.org/Educate/Reach.aspx or request a print copy by emailing reach@synergyexchange.org.

HAVE A CPA SPEAK TO YOUR CLASS FOR FREE

Members of the Minnesota Society of CPAs are available to speak with students about the diversity of work in the accounting profession. Each speaker will provide free materials to students, such as career planners and salary guides. For more information or to request a speaker, please contact Tabitha McDonald at tmcdonald@mncpa.org or 952-885-5522.

STEM TEACHER CENTER

SciMathMN advocates for effective, engaging and rigorous science, technology, engineering and mathematics education opportunities for all Minnesota students, preparing them for citizenship, careers and college. The website's teacher center offers frameworks for the delivery of Minnesota's mathematics and science standards and other resources. Go to <http://scimathmn.org> to learn more.

SMITHSONIAN HISTORY EXPLORER WEBSITE

Smithsonian's History Explorer website from the Smithsonian National Museum of American History features free classroom resources including history lessons and interactive activities for all grade levels and historical time periods beginning in 1620 through present day. Also available are 30-minute webinars that highlight key resources from the Museum's online materials to help you plan specific lessons on topics like the Civil War and "The Star Spangled Banner." See the offerings at historyexplorer.si.edu.

Grants

FARMERS INSURANCE CLASSROOM MATERIALS GRANT

Farmers Insurance awards \$2,500 grants through its Thank America's Teachers program and AdoptAClassroom.org. The contest is open to K-12 teachers who have been thanked on the website. Thank you notes can come from yourself, a family member, student or any supporter. The fall semester grant proposals are due Sept. 27. There are two other applications periods throughout the year. For official contest rules or to apply, go to www.farmers.com/thank-americas-teachers.

LOWE'S TOOLBOX FOR EDUCATION GRANTS

Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant program provides either \$2,000 or \$5,000 grants to schools, or parent groups working with schools. There is a preference for funding requests with a permanent impact such as facility renovations and safety improvements, technology upgrades and tools for STEM programs. Applications are due Sept. 28. Go to www.toolboxforeducation.com to learn more.

MATH EDUCATORS GRANTS

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics provides multiple grants to math teachers for professional development, classroom materials, student engagement and graduate course work. Grants are for NCTM members. The first application period is Nov. 2. To see all of the grant opportunities or to apply, go to www.nctm.org/Grants.

Members-only, free professional development at the 2018 MEA conference! Register today!

Education Minnesota members can now register for the state's largest professional development conference!

The 2018 Minnesota Educator Academy (MEA) conference will be Thursday, Oct. 18, only and open to just Education Minnesota members and college students working to become teachers.

The conference will continue to take place in downtown St. Paul at the Saint Paul RiverCentre, and will still be the largest professional development opportunity for educators in Minnesota.

The Thursday event will feature more than 90 workshops, with a focus on sessions that meet the state's relicensure categories.

Education Minnesota members will need to register for the conference. Same-day registration is possible, if space is available.

To see the workshop listings and register today, go to www.cvent.com/d/3gqd75.

Attendees will receive a certificate of attendance at the end of each workshop session, but local continuing education committees will determine whether to approve the credit.

Education Minnesota will be offering onsite child care during the MEA conference. The service is open to kids ages 6 months to 10 years and will be free to Education Minnesota members.

ACCENT on Children's Arrangements is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. ACCENT has prepared a children's program called Camp MEA, which includes age-appropriate, curriculum-enriched activities.

A preview containing the conference schedule and highlights will be in the October/November issue of the Minnesota Educator magazine.

A printable schedule and detailed workshop descriptions will be available at www.educationminnesota.org/events.aspx#mea and on the Education Minnesota Crowd Compass event app.

Where were people were reading their Minnesota Educator? Read more about our contest on page 3!



Kyle and Julie Hooper,
St. Francis



Jean Albrightson,
Education Minnesota Retired



Christina Ruda,
Long Prairie-Grey Eagle



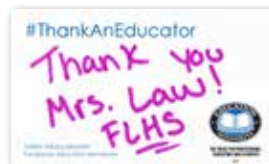
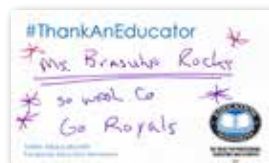
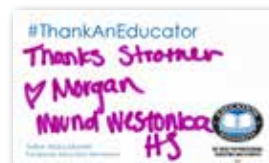
Noelle Carlson
St. Francis



Staretta Taylor-Cooper,
St. Paul

Thank an educator!

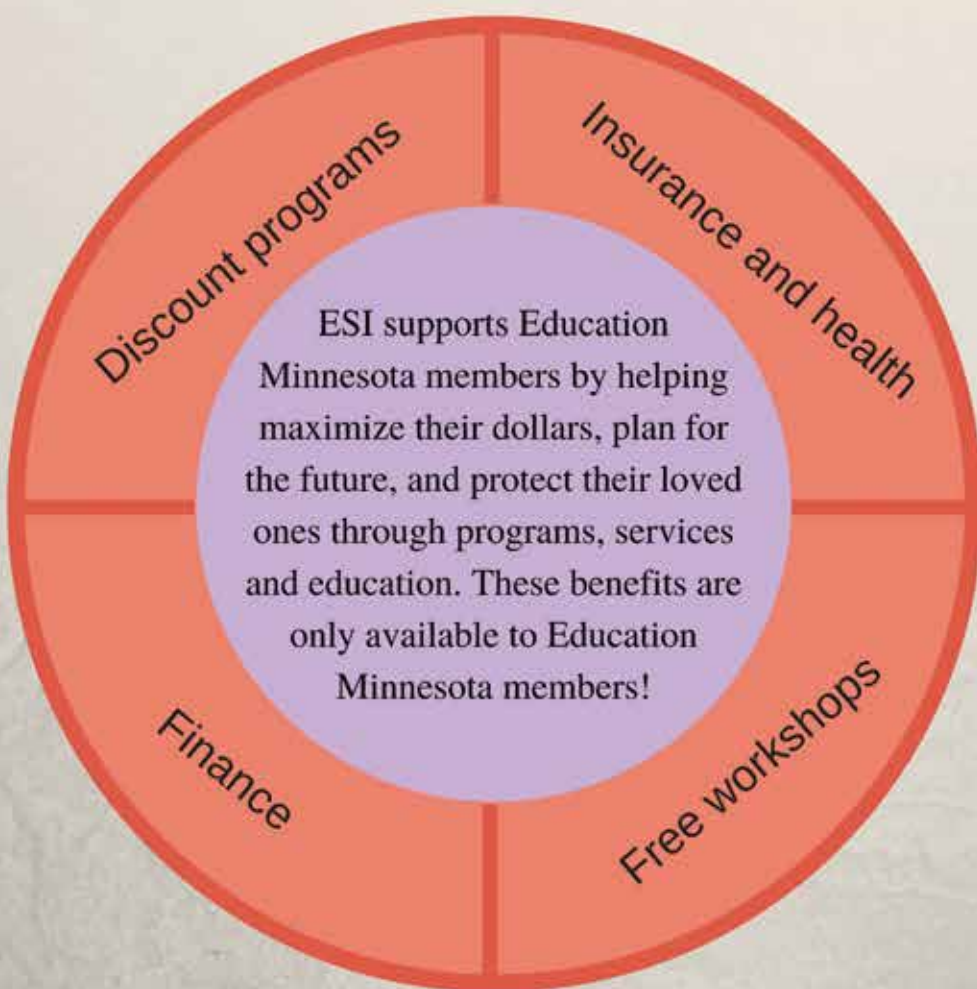
Every year, thousands of kids and adults thank educators who were influential in their lives at Education Minnesota's State Fair booth. We will feature a selection in each issue of the Minnesota Educator. Keep an eye out for your name!



MEMBERS WANT TO KNOW

ESI MEMBER BENEFITS

ESI Member Benefits strives to make Education Minnesota members lives better by negotiating discounts and special benefits. With options for early career educators, those in the heart of their profession, or those nearing retirement, ESI has programs for you!



Find out how you can join over 30,000 other Education Minnesota members who use ESI Member Benefits. Watch for the purple brochure in your back to school materials. You can also find more information on the Education Minnesota website or like us on Facebook @EducationMNESI

41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103 651-292-4856 800-642-4624

esi.educationminnesota.org esi@edmn.org

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THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
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Education Minnesota
41 Sherburne Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55103

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR THE 2018 ESP OF THE YEAR

Nominations are open until Oct. 1 for the next Education Minnesota Education Support Professional of the Year.

The program honors exemplary professional and union work by an Education Minnesota member in any ESP job category, including paraprofessional/ education assistant, secretarial/clerical, custodial, food service, maintenance and trades, transportation, groundskeeping, security, technology services, health services and others.

- All Education Minnesota ESP members who have been members for at least three years as of Jan. 15, 2018 are eligible. Individuals can be nominated by anyone associated with Minnesota schools.
- The ESP of the Year represents his or her peers throughout the profession and connects to communities as an ambassador, and is Minnesota's nominee for the National Education Association's ESP of the Year award.
- The ESP of the Year receives a \$1,000 honorarium, an iPad and a trip to the NEA's Education Support Professional National Conference.
- To nominate a candidate for 2018 Education Minnesota ESP of the Year, go to www.educationminnesota.org/resources/esps/esp-of-the-year-nomination-form.