

Attacks on unions and public education

Elected leaders at the national and state level have made it clear they want to weaken unions, the voice of working people and public education.

Why do they want to chip away at the effectiveness of unions? Because educators and other public workers are powerful and can affect change when we have a collective voice. Here are some of those core union values that are under attack if right-to-work style laws come from the federal or state level:

Our pay and benefits



Minnesota educators enjoy better pay and pensions than educators in many other states because previous generations of educators fought for them. Teachers in so-called right-to-work states earn \$7,609 less on average than Minnesota teachers.

Our voices



Our voices as professional educators are elevated and heard when we join together as Education Minnesota. But it will be harder for us to have influence when decisions are made about public education if we are smaller in number.

Our power



The power of educators to advocate for their profession and their students increases with each individual who chooses to work in union toward shared goals, but it weakens us all when even one educator opts out. Only together can we improve our learning and working conditions, bargain enough pay to sustain a family and win the time and training to constantly improve as educators of our students.

Justice for all



Those who want to weaken unions want more power in the political process. Unions have fought for the rights of all Minnesotans, and we still have the responsibility to help alleviate the racism, discrimination and income inequality that hurt our students and their families.

Find out more about the attacks on unions and working families at www.educationminnesota.org/advocacy.aspx#attacks-on-unions

