

# M I N N E S O T A EDUCATOR

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2021

**MEA conference  
to feature virtual  
and in-person  
options**

**Meet Natalia Benjamin,  
the 2021 Minnesota  
Teacher of the Year**



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL  
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

# Complete courses at your own pace on MEA Online

Education Minnesota launched MEA Online, formerly LearnUpon, this spring. Members can access our catalog of professional development to improve their professional practice, earn CEU credits for relicensure and build union understanding and power.

## Here are the courses now available for members:

- Assessment for Learning in Response to COVID-19 (Live Recording)
- Building Representative – Roles and Responsibilities
- Certified Negotiator Program for Education Support Professionals Part 1 – PELRA and Bargaining Team Dynamics
- Certified Negotiator Program for Education Support Professionals Part 2 – Member Engagement
- Certified Negotiator Program for Education Support Professionals Part 3 – Research and Costing
- Certified Negotiator Program for Education Support Professionals Part 4 – Preparing a Proposal and Communications
- Certified Negotiator Program for Teachers
- Classroom Mindfulness
- Community Engagement: Building Relationships for the Schools and Communities Students Deserve
- Costing Teacher Settlements
- Cultural Competency Training Part 1 – Relicensure
- Cultural Competency Training Part 2 – Relicensure
- Cultural Competency Training Part 3 – Relicensure
- Cultural Competency Training Part 4 – Relicensure
- Culturally Responsive Teaching Through a Racial Justice Lens
- Degrees, Not Debt
- Engage Students with “Crossroads: An Anthology of Resilience and Hope by Young Somali Writers” (Live Recorded Session)
- English Learners – Relicensure
- ESP Costing Spreadsheet
- Finding Our Way Through: Navigating the Mental and Emotional Challenges of Our Current World (Live Recorded Session)
- Google’s Applied Digital Skills Workshop
- Health Insurance Basics & Beyond
- Jim Crow of the North: Bringing Minnesota’s Diverse History Into the Classroom
- LGBTQ+ Training: Part 1
- LGBTQ+ Training: Part 2
- Local Elections Training for Referendums and School Board Races
- Meet and Confer
- Moving Lives Minnesota: Student-Driven Storytelling Around Immigration (Live Recorded Session)
- MRA I: Member Rights Advocacy
- MRA II: Member Rights Advocacy
- MRA III: Member Rights Advocacy
- Negotiating Equitable Benefits & A Family Friendly Workplace
- Negotiations Resources: Online Data & Information to Support Bargaining
- Positive Behavior Interventions & Instructional Strategies – Relicensure
- Public Employees Insurance Program (PEIP)
- Race Talk Messaging: What, Why and How
- Reading – Relicensure
- Rethinking Bargaining Surveys (CBOC 2021 Recording)
- Social Media, Legal Issues for Educators
- Student Mental Health – Relicensure
- Suicide Prevention – Relicensure
- Taking Effective Notes in Bargaining and Member Meetings
- Three Frames of Unionism
- Trauma I: Understanding Trauma and the Developing Brain
- Using Membership to the Max: Member Benefits
- Virtual Negotiating: Moving Bargaining Online (CBOC 2021 Recording)
- Wealth Inequality and the Impact on Public Education
- Worksite Unity Leader Training Part 1

**No account creation is required. Go to <https://edmn.me/MEAonline> to find out more about MEA Online and how to access trainings.**





**THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL  
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS**

## October/November 2021 – Volume 24, 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 paper is printed in LSC Communications' union shop in Menasha, Wisconsin. Find copies of the Educator online at [www.educationminnesota.org](http://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](mailto: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:

Email: [membership@edmn.org](mailto:membership@edmn.org)  
By web: [www.educationminnesota.org](http://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: [matt.blewett@edmn.org](mailto:matt.blewett@edmn.org)  
Phone: 651-292-4829

### For general inquiries and business at the state headquarters:

Phone: 800-652-9073 or 651-227-9541  
For information about union activities, work and  
resources, go to [www.educationminnesota.org](http://www.educationminnesota.org).

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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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## Education leaders come together in defense of safe, welcoming and effective schools

Eight leaders in public education in Minnesota came together this month and spoke out against the campaign to roll back the work to make our schools more safe, welcoming and effective for all students.

Make no mistake, the effort to ban “critical race theory” is not about a system of legal analysis taught to law students. It’s a well-coordinated, national campaign against the efforts of public schools to increase racial and gender justice within their walls.

The campaign’s tactics are intended to intimidate individual educators and harass school boards. They could lead to laws and policies that deny our students the freedom to learn an honest history of our country. Educators must speak up in this moment. This is what the groups said on Sept. 13:

“Nearly all Minnesotans agree every student deserves an education that encourages them to understand and value who they are and where they came from so they can reach their full potential, no matter their skin color, background, gender, or ZIP code.

Too often, we have fallen short of this goal, especially for our students of color, LGBTQ+ students, students living in poverty, and students with special physical or emotional needs. We are committed to reversing this trend with programs and policies that meet students where they are — academically, emotionally, and physically — and lift them up so every student has an excellent chance at academic success. For us, this is the definition of education equity.

We have seen progress but have no doubts that more needs to be done to make our schools safe, welcoming and effective for all students. If nothing else, demography demands we quicken our pace. More than a third of our students statewide are students of color and our state becomes more racially and culturally diverse every year.

Unfortunately, many communities throughout Minnesota are feeling the effects of a well-organized national campaign pushing an agenda that misrepresents the vital work of racial and gender equity in our schools and then mislabels it as “critical race theory.” This deceptive campaign pushes the idea that educational equity

is a zero-sum proposition — that it is necessary for some students to lose opportunities to help other students succeed. Nothing could be further from the truth. Educational equity is giving all students a world-class education.

To be clear: Every student — white, Black, brown, or Indigenous — benefits from learning a deeper respect and understanding for their neighbors through an honest education in social studies, language arts, and all the other subjects taught in our schools.

As representatives of classroom educators, administrators, and school boards throughout Minnesota, we value students for who they are today and our organizations are committed to developing all of them into informed citizens, good neighbors and critical thinkers who can live in, and someday lead in, a multicultural, multiracial Minnesota. Our kids deserve nothing less.”

The statement was signed by:

Association of Metropolitan School Districts  
Education Minnesota

Minnesota Administrators for Special Education  
Minnesota Association of School Administrators  
Minnesota Association of School Business Officials  
Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals  
Minnesota Elementary School Principals’ Association  
Minnesota School Boards Association

Together,



Twitter: @DeniseSpecht



Denise Specht

## COVID-19, vaccine guidance updates

Education Minnesota continues to share and update information around the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, as it relates to schools and our members.

As of press time, our FAQ on vaccines was recently updated with information about plans to approve COVID-19 vaccines for children under the age of 12, the Biden administration's announcement of an OSHA rule that will require employers with more than 100 employees to adopt vaccine mandates and the latest version of a sample vaccine MOU for local unions.

Education Minnesota also still has available FAQs around CDC and Minnesota Department of Health guidance, blended learning, saliva testing and resources around online learning and bargaining resources for local unions as they work with administration.

Watch Education Minnesota's social media channels and [www.educationminnesota.org/resources/in-the-classroom/Coronavirus](http://www.educationminnesota.org/resources/in-the-classroom/Coronavirus) for all of the up-to-date resources and information.

## Getting social!

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



Thanks again to the fantastic idea from @MrTomRad my 7th graders worked on their identity projects and are excited about the beginning of school! @EducationMN



## Where are you reading your Minnesota Educator?

**Congratulations, Travis Paulsen of Jordan, for being this issue's winning submission!**

We love seeing all of the places where you are reading your Minnesota Educator!

Email a photo to [educator@edmn.org](mailto: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 to win a \$50 Target gift card!

Submissions are due Nov. 5. Happy reading!



## Educators in the news!

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

“

**I think, if anything, from last year we've learned flexibility. It's kind of holding both truths at the same time – it's been really hard but we're also growing because of it.**

”

– Leah Soderlund, an English learning language teacher at Pinewood Elementary School in Mounds View, in a story about teachers returning to the new school year, which aired on FOX 9 TV, Aug. 31.

## Love of learning, language guides Benjamin's teaching career

Her own personal love of learning and language is what inspired Natalia Benjamin to become a teacher, and helping her students find their own voice within language and the world is part of why she was named the 2021 Minnesota Teacher of the Year.



*Natalia Benjamin, an EL teacher from Rochester, was named the 2021 Minnesota Teacher of the Year this August.*

"Students can find their voice and realize that as they understand and read the world around them, they have the power to shape it and their personal futures," said Benjamin in one of her essay submissions for

the award. "Together, we can build an educational system where the integration of representative curriculum and equitable practices can lead to a reduction of inequitable discipline data and opportunity gaps."

Benjamin is a high school English learner and ethnic studies teacher at Century High School in the Rochester school district. Benjamin is the 57th recipient of the award, the first from the Rochester district and the first Latinx teacher to be named Minnesota Teacher of the Year.

"Our students don't see themselves reflected very often," she said. "(Being the first Latinx Minnesota Teacher of the Year) has made me realize how much more we have to uplift and represent the cultures."

A native Spanish speaker, Benjamin also grew up speaking, reading and writing French while attending a French school in Guatemala City. Later, she learned English in middle school and high school. She says the exposure to different languages prepared her to better understand a child's language acquisition process.

"Natalia sets her students up for success by fostering a safe, positive and welcoming learning environment for every child," wrote Molly Murphy, assistant principal at Century High School, in a letter supporting Benjamin's nomination. "She has an ability to vary instruction and adjust lessons to meet student needs.

Natalia creates an open, supportive environment with mutual respect among the students."

Benjamin knows that her classroom is a space to do more than just learn a language.

"I want to make students feel more comfortable speaking in the United States, but it's not about the grammar or the vocabulary," she said. "Learning more about heritage speakers really captured my passion and my heart in how we can provide more culture lessons and accurate history for our students. That opened the door into how I could improve my teaching and how I could provide more opportunities for students to tap into the ideas not always talked about in our school settings."

Benjamin said she also knows just how much her classroom is a space to help take care of their community.

"We're still in the pandemic, but we need to come to a better understanding of what has happened in the last 18 months," she said. "It's been a rough year. Everybody's been through something. This is an opportunity for us to think about how we build educational environments that make room to talk about all these issues. Society at large needs to think about how we talk about opportunities where we build learning communities not just on academics but on the skills we need to take care of each other."



## Eight others honored as Teacher of the Year finalists

Besides Benjamin, eight other teachers were also finalists for 2021 Minnesota Teacher of the Year award. Here are their reflections on why they teach.

"Teaching is my act of social justice. It is what I can do, and at the root of it is love."

*Layne Bell, language arts, Hopkins High School – Hopkins Achievement Program alternative program, Hopkins Public Schools*



"I teach for the growth, the confidence, the ability and the independence a child feels and grows in school from September to June."

*France Roberts, elementary, Meadow Ridge Elementary School, Wayzata Public Schools*



"Education is a powerful tool and I want to provide that service to the community and to the world."

*Kim Marty-Goblirsch, language arts, Medford High School, Medford Public Schools*



"I am passionate about creating a nurturing, fun and inclusive classroom. My students embrace learning the Spanish language and also open their minds to different cultures."



"I teach because it fuels my early mornings and keeps my eyes open late at night, as I strive to do what's best for students."

*Todd Hunter, science, Anoka High School, Anoka-Hennepin School District*



*Sandra Stephens, elementary, Nuevas Fronteras Spanish Immersion, South Washington County Schools*

"I teach to be a part of a movement where our scholars use their voice and agency to create a more just and equitable world."



"When I teach, I feel inspired, motivated, creative and encouraged to challenge myself and my students to think and discover."

*Eugenia Popa, ESL, Harding Senior High School, Saint Paul Public Schools*



*Jessica Stewart, social studies, Osseo Senior High School, Osseo Area Schools*

"I get up every day and go to work just for my scholars. I aspire to inspire all students before I expire."



*Lauren Wheeler, fitness for life/health, Thomas Edison High School, Minneapolis Public Schools*

*The 2021 Minnesota Teacher of the Year finalists pose at the recognition ceremony at the state Capitol in August with 2020 Minnesota Teacher of the Year Qorsho Hassan. Not in attendance at the event was finalist Eugenia Popa.*



## Educators of color forums invite all members to join

Education Minnesota's Educator of Color Forums are the creation of Education Minnesota's Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee (EMAC), an advisory body that focuses on ethnic minority issues in Minnesota schools. These forums provide space for members of color to connect, share, network and advocate for what educators and students of color need within our union and public education.

If you would like to learn more about the forums, contact their leadership or reach out to Education Minnesota's Racial Equity Organizer, Londel French at [londel.french@edmn.org](mailto:londel.french@edmn.org).

### Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee

Members are appointed to Education Minnesota's Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee by the president of Education Minnesota annually. EMAC meets at least three times per school year to discuss the union's racial equity work and examine the union's roadmap for its racial equity work, a document called the affirmative involvement plan. EMAC also has a presence at Education Minnesota's major events, such as the Minnesota Educator Academy conference and Summer Seminar.

The chair of EMAC is a nonvoting member of Education Minnesota's Governing Board. This allows the union's members of color to interact closely with governance, as one of the committee's members attends all governing board meetings to be kept informed of anything that may have a specific impact on members of color.

To learn more about EMAC and see the members, go to [www.educationminnesota.org/about/who-we-are/standing-committees/ethnic-minority-affairs-committee.aspx](http://www.educationminnesota.org/about/who-we-are/standing-committees/ethnic-minority-affairs-committee.aspx).



### African American Educators Forum

The African American Educators Forum is a network of educational professionals who are members of Education Minnesota. We provide support and advocacy toward better outcomes for our educators, students and communities.

**Connect with us to receive more information and updates:**

Email: [aaedforum@gmail.com](mailto:aaedforum@gmail.com)

Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/africanamericaneducatorsforum/home>





### American Indian Education Professionals

The American Indian Education Professionals supports, encourages and advocates for American Indian/Native American educators to create an inclusive and safe learning environment to achieve better outcomes for Native youth.

For more information, contact Tucker Quetone at [tucker.quetone@gmail.com](mailto:tucker.quetone@gmail.com).



### League of Latinx Educators

The League of Latinx Educators is a community built to support and retain Latinx educators, celebrate Latinx cultural identity and advocate for racial equity in our Minnesota schools in order to liberate our peoples from inherited colonialism and systems of oppression.

#### Upcoming meetings:

Saturday, Jan. 22, 10 a.m.-noon

Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m.-noon

Friday, June 3, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

#### Connect with us to receive more information and updates:

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/latinxeducators](https://www.facebook.com/latinxeducators)

Twitter: @league\_latinxED

Instagram: [leagueoflatinxeducators](https://www.instagram.com/leagueoflatinxeducators)

Email: [leaguelatinoeducatorsmn@gmail.com](mailto:leaguelatinoeducatorsmn@gmail.com)

Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/leagueoflatinxeducators>



### Pan Asian Educators Forum

The Pan Asian Educators Forum is a network of education professionals collectively advocating for Asian students, families and educators.

For more information, contact [maria.le@isd623.org](mailto:maria.le@isd623.org).



## Additional pay for ESPs, essential workers still being debated

Decisions around the additional \$250 million set aside to honor essential workers with additional compensation by Gov. Tim Walz and the Minnesota Legislature remains with the working group of legislators, as of press time.

Education Minnesota has been advocating for education support professionals, who have been working in-person throughout the entire COVID-19 pandemic, to be able to access the additional money.

ESP members testified in front of the working group at the beginning of August.

"ESPs across the state stepped up when it would have been easy to step back," said Judie Bomchill, an ESP from Robbinsdale. "We knew the risks, but we knew our students needed us and we put them first, always."

Bomchill said she knows that ESPs like her did whatever needed to be done throughout this pandemic.

"In March 2020, when everyone was sent home, Robbinsdale EAs were still in the building every single day until the end of the school year," she said. "We rode school buses to not only pass out materials but see what families might need and make sure they were OK."

Maria Cruz, a Spanish immersion paraprofessional from Rochester, also testified at the working group about how ESPs were asked to do things outside of their normal duties or job description.

"We didn't have any training and we were expected to do everything," Cruz said. "I love my job. But there was some things we couldn't do in this pandemic. If kids needed a hug, you can't. It was hard working in those moments."

Cruz also reminded the legislators that ESPs aren't given the pay or respect they deserve during normal times, but especially as they went above and beyond during the pandemic.

"I often get asked about open positions in our schools, but then they ask how much money it pays and it's not enough," she said.

Ann Arney, an ESP in Stillwater, also testified.

"Let me be clear that at an average of \$14 per hour, ESPs are some of the lowest paid workers in education," Arney said. "Yet our role has been deemed so critical

to the success of the school environment that the only choice we are given is to work in person. We are the ones propping up the communities and economies, providing a safe space for everyone's children so everyone can go to work."

Education Minnesota will update all members when a decision has been made. Watch our social media channels for more information about the distribution of this funding.



*Education Minnesota ESP members testified about their contributions to schools, their communities and the state during this pandemic, as part of the legislative working group deciding how to distribute \$250 million to essential workers.*

## Education Minnesota's 2021 MEA conference will be hybrid this year!

Attend in-person Oct. 21 at the Saint Paul RiverCentre to check out our lineup of 65 workshops and dozens of educational exhibits. Or you can log on from home to watch the general session and a dozen select sessions virtually.

New relicensure courses will also be available on Education Minnesota's MEA Online for members to complete at their own pace. Courses at MEA and MEA Online are always free to active Education Minnesota members.

For more information on the 2021 MEA conference, visit [www.educationminnesota.org/events/mea](http://www.educationminnesota.org/events/mea).

### What to expect this year:

- In-person and virtual livestream attendance is limited, so register early! In order to create a safe in-person learning environment, Education Minnesota will require proof of vaccination before registering, masking for all attendees, regardless of vaccination status, and social distancing.
- There will be NO CHILD CARE available this year due to ongoing COVID-19 concerns.
- Thursday's general session starts at 9 a.m. and workshops start at 10:45 a.m. Thursday. Passing time is 15 minutes. Register in advance at <http://edmn.me/mea2021>. Same-day registration WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE. Deadline to register is Oct. 19.
- Our exhibit hall will be smaller and on the ballroom level with the workshops.

### General session features keynote speaker

- Ballrooms A and B, 9-10:30 a.m.
- Featuring Education Minnesota President Denise Specht, Minnesota Teacher of the Year Natalia Benjamin and keynote speaker to be announced.

### COVID-19 safety protocols and mitigation

In the interest of keeping attendees, trainers and exhibitors safe, and in recognition of increasing

### Quick facts

- When: 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 21
- Where: Saint Paul RiverCentre; some live sessions will be available via webinar.
- Admission: Free and open to Education Minnesota members and aspiring educators only.
- Registration: <http://edmn.me/mea2021>
- Check in: Opens at 7:30 a.m.
- General session: 9-10:30 a.m.
- Workshops: 10:45 a.m.-4:45 p.m.
- Exhibits: 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

COVID-19 case numbers in our community, all trainings sponsored or supported by Education Minnesota will require all attendees to wear face coverings and have at least three feet of physical distance between each attendee. This is true regardless of the location of the event, and regardless of whether attendees are vaccinated.

Additionally, proof of vaccination for COVID-19 is required to present, exhibit or attend this event in person. Attendees and trainers will be required to upload their vaccination card via our Cvent registration process.

Finally, if you test positive for COVID-19 or have symptoms shortly after the conference, please let us know so that we can notify attendees, trainers, exhibitors and other guests. In order to facilitate contact tracing in the event of a positive COVID-19 case by an attendee, we ask that you please stay in the sessions for which you registered. We will also be verifying that attendees to each session have registered for that session.

We appreciate your support and cooperation in observing these COVID-19 safety protocols.

### Help us promote MEA!

Post on Instagram and Twitter about your favorite MEA moments using #MEAmn21 for a chance to win one of two \$200 Target gift cards. Each post counts as one entry.



## MEA workshops: Oct. 21

Location	9-10:30 a.m.	10:45-11:45 a.m.	11:45-1:15 p.m.	1:15-2:15 p.m.
Ballroom A	General session and keynote speaker*	From Exhibit to Classroom: Deepening Native American Content Connections*	Lunch break	Understanding and Using Assessment Results to Support Equitable Learning Opportunities*
Ballroom B		Culturally Responsive Classroom Mindfulness*		Culturally Responsive Teaching for Muslim Students*
Ballroom C		Sing Today—Read Forever! How to Use Music-Making to Raise Reading Achievement*		Creating Gender Inclusivity Through Language, Curriculum and Sharing Stories*
Ballroom D		Degrees, Not Debt		Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR)
Room 1				
Room 2		How to Obtain Your Minnesota Paraprofessional Credential		When Can I Afford to Retire? (ESPs)
Room 3		Practical Guidance for New(er) Educators		
Room 4		Reading		Reading
Room 5		Student Mental Health		Student Mental Health
Room 6		The Things They Didn't Teach You in School — The Power of Personal Branding in Education		Rock SEL: Experiential Social & Emotional Learning for Educators and Students
Room 7				Staying Positive During Challenging Times
Room 8		Belong With Us! Using Classroom Dynamics™ to Create Belonging		SEL and Equity: Building Educator SEL Skills to Create Equity and Belonging for All Students
Room 9		Classroom Management That Works		Ideas Ideas Ideas
Room 10		Mindful Eating on the Go		Getting a Good Night's Sleep
Room 11		Ojibwe and Dakota PLT Lessons		Explore Your Environment: Meet the New PLT Guide
Room 12		Peer Education for Digital Well-being Leadership		Digital Well-being for EDUCATORS!
Room 13		Free Online Research Resources for K-12		Ebooks Minnesota Update: Five Years Later
Room 14		I've Been Accused of Maltreating a Student. Now What?!		Educator Speech Rights
Room 15				

*Schedule subject to change. Go to [www.educationminnesota.org](http://www.educationminnesota.org) for more information.*

2:30-3:30 p.m.	3:45-4:45 p.m.	Location
Panel With Minnesota Teacher of the Year and Finalists*	Teaching Gifted Learners: Advice From Minnesota Educators of the Gifted and Talented*	<b>Ballroom A</b>
Culturally Relevant Pedagogy With Primary Sources*	Getting Started With Project-Based Learning*	<b>Ballroom B</b>
Trauma I: Understanding Trauma and the Developing Brain*	Trauma II: Understanding Trauma and the Developing Brain*	<b>Ballroom C</b>
Why Is It So Hard to Talk About Race?	Race Talk Messaging: What, Why and How	<b>Ballroom D</b>
		<b>Room 1</b>
When Can I Afford to Retire?	Using Membership to the Max: Member Benefits	<b>Room 2</b>
Racial Justice is Education Justice: How To Show Up for Our Students, Families and Communities	Social Studies Update: Into Your Rights and the Standards Revision	<b>Room 3</b>
English Learners	English Learners	<b>Room 4</b>
Positive Behavior Interventions	Positive Behavior Interventions	<b>Room 5</b>
Mental Health and Social Media: Help Students Take Ownership of Their Well-Being		<b>Room 6</b>
Neuroscience for Educators - Mindfulness of Emotions	I Didn't Sign Up For This! A Teacher's Guide to Overcoming Overwhelm, Burnout and Exhaustion	<b>Room 7</b>
Impact Teaching	Why Outdoors? Why Not?	<b>Room 8</b>
The Little Things That Make the Biggest Difference	Mapping Local Communities: Young Learners, Primary Sources and Cultural Relevance	<b>Room 9</b>
Go After Some Laughter		<b>Room 10</b>
Creating Schools That Welcome All Genders	Fifty Shades for Youth? A Survivor's Presentation on Toxicity in Teen Literature	<b>Room 11</b>
Building Your Tech Sandwich	How the Minnesota NBCT Network Helps Teachers Achieve National Board Certification	<b>Room 12</b>
How Do I Teach That? Tips for Meeting MN Science Standards Related to Climate Change.		<b>Room 13</b>
	Unlocking Literacy Through Dance and Theater	<b>Room 14</b>
	<b>* Classes will also be livestreamed for continuing education credit.</b>	<b>Room 15</b>

## Exhibitors

List as of press time. Final exhibitor listing subject to change.

### A

Anaphylaxis and Food Allergy  
Association of Minnesota  
Animal Rights Coalition  
Aviben

### B

Bethel University

### C

Camp Fire Minnesota |  
Tanadoona  
CARE Counseling  
Concordia University, St. Paul

### E

E4Effort  
Education Minnesota ESI  
EFS Advisors  
Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota

### G

Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife  
Commission (GLIFWC)

### H

Human Rights Campaign  
Foundation's Welcoming  
Schools Program

### I

Infinite Campus  
Iron Mining Association  
of Minnesota

### M

Metropolitan State University  
Minnesota Agriculture in the  
Classroom  
Minnesota Department  
of Education  
Minnesota Department  
of Public Safety  
Minnesota Historical Society  
Minnesota Science Teachers  
Association (MnSTA)  
Minnesota State University,  
Mankato - College of Education

### N

NEA Member Benefits  
NEA Member Benefits  
California Casualty Auto and  
Home Insurance  
Nickelodeon Universe/Mall  
of America

### O

Ordway Center for the  
Performing Arts

### P

PeaceMaker Minnesota  
Public Employees Insurance  
Program (PEIP)

### R

Remooble

### S

Schatz Benefit Group  
SEA LIFE at Mall of America  
Securus ID Inc.  
Seven Corners Print and Promo  
SpEd Forms  
St Catherine University  
St. Cloud State University: College  
of Education and Learning Design  
Synergy & Leadership Exchange

### T

Tradition Mortgage  
Twin Cities PBS

### U

United Educators Credit Union  
University of Minnesota College  
of Education and Human  
Development  
University of Northwestern  
University of St. Thomas  
University of Wisconsin, Superior

### W

Winona State University

### Y

Youth for Human Rights  
International



## Bagley teacher puts apps to the test during online learning

When the COVID-19 pandemic closed school buildings in 2020, Amanda Everhart of Bagley was just like any other educator, trying to change the entire way she taught her lessons. For Everhart, it also provided an opportunity to see if any of the online apps she was now going to be using could help improve her students' math skills.

"When we got shut down and had two weeks to plan, we didn't receive much guidance except that kids were going to be on their devices," Everhart said. "We had all of these apps we're encouraged to use, but are they helpful?"

Everhart was also working toward her master's degree at the time, so decided to collect data as part of her capstone project.

Everhart looked at data on third grade students and found that many struggle with the six, seven and eight multiplication facts and ultimately this hinders their attitude and beliefs in regards to mathematics.

"I pulled together a small sample group of kids whose parents said yes," she said. "I met with them as a small group using apps called Quizlet, Kahoot, IXL and Reflex."

The small group met four days a week for 20-30 minutes, using the apps in different ways.

"I used Kahoot for just math fact questions. Quizlet was more specific math facts," Everhart said. "Every day they had to be on Reflex until they get their 'green light.' If they know their facts, they could get it in five minutes. Some took longer."

Everhart saw this as similar to the small group format she used in her classroom, but using the apps was a way to easily replicate that idea online.

"I tried to make sure it wasn't too time consuming so they were on their screens all day," she said. "I also wanted to make sure what I was assigning wasn't just busy work and was valuable."

To assess a baseline of the participant's beliefs and attitudes of mathematics, Everhart gave her students

a pre-study questionnaire using a Likert scale. At the end of the intervention, participants were given the pre-study questionnaire to analyze if there was an increase in their attitudes and beliefs of mathematics.

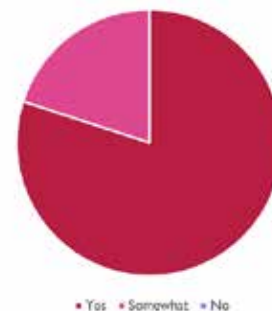
In the end, Everhart found a positive correlation of the integration of multiple technology tools, game play on Zoom with an instructor to provide immediate feedback, and help when practicing multiplication to student's attitudes and beliefs.

She also found that by integrating digital game play focused on the multiplication facts of six, seven and eight showed an increase in their knowledge of their multiplication facts.

Everhart knows that her group was small and because of the pandemic, there was no control group, but she is happy to have something to share out about the use of apps and their impact on student performance.

"I just want to share out that these are my results are and what worked with my kids," she said. "Through technology integration, small group, targeted game play and instruction, students were more confident in their math skills and in multiplication altogether."

Figure 4: Student Question: Do you feel like this cohort helped you as a student learn your 6,7,8 multiplication facts better?



Bagley teacher Amanda Everhart tested the effectiveness of using certain online apps to help a small group of students with math. She surveyed them after her study and found that many found the apps and lessons helpful.

## Filing open for Education Minnesota officer, governing board, NEA director positions

Candidate filings for Education Minnesota officer and National Education Association director positions are now open. Candidate filings for Education Minnesota's Governing Board election district positions will open Nov. 1.

The current three-year terms for president, vice president and secretary-treasurer will expire June 30, 2022. Candidates for these offices will file by submitting a filing form below to the Education Minnesota Office of the Elections Committee by Dec. 10.

These offices are now held by President Denise Specht, Vice President Bernie Burnham and Secretary-Treasurer Rodney Rowe.

The current terms for two NEA director positions now filled by Marty Fridgen and Heather Bakke will expire Aug. 31, 2022.

Candidates for these positions will file a form by Dec. 10. The filing form for these positions are on the next page.

Education Minnesota is governed by an elected board, made up of a member from each of the union's 26 election districts. The current three-year terms for all 26 seats will expire June 30, 2022. Candidates for the next three-year term (July 1, 2022-June 20, 2025) will file by submitting the filing form on the next page by Dec. 10.

All of these forms are also available as writable PDFs on the Education Minnesota website.

### Filing Form for Officer

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

I, \_\_\_\_\_, wish to file for the following position:

OR

I, \_\_\_\_\_, wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_ for the following position:

You may only select one position:

☐ **President**   ☐ **Vice President**   ☐ **Secretary-Treasurer**

#### Candidate information

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Local: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Do not submit before filing period begins on June 1. Deadline is 11:59 p.m. Dec. 10, 2021.**

*Email completed form to [elections.committee@edmn.org](mailto:elections.committee@edmn.org), submit by mail to: Office of the 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](mailto:elections.committee@edmn.org). Note: Education Minnesota includes an insert of all candidates in the Minnesota Educator published prior to the election in April and in a Voter Guide distributed at the Representative Convention. Candidates may submit a photo and statement for inclusion in these publications and the Education Minnesota website. The photo and statement must be submitted using the online submission form at [www.educationminnesota.org](http://www.educationminnesota.org). Statement and photo must be submitted by Dec. 20, 2021.*

(For official use only)

This filing form was received on \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_. Membership was verified on \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.

## Filing Form for Governing Board – Election District

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

I, \_\_\_\_\_, wish to file for the following position:

OR

I, \_\_\_\_\_, wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_ for the following position:

**Governing Board – Election District:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Three-year term: July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2025. Election district map located at [www.educationminnesota.org](http://www.educationminnesota.org).)

### Candidate information

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Local: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Filing Form for NEA Director

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

I, \_\_\_\_\_, wish to file for the following position:

OR

I, \_\_\_\_\_, wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_ for the following position:

You may only select one position:

☐ **NEA Director (Position 1)** ☐ **NEA Director (Position 2)**

### Candidate information

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Local: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Do not submit before filing period begins on June 1. Deadline is 11:59 p.m. Dec. 10, 2021.**

*Email completed form to [elections.committee@edmn.org](mailto:elections.committee@edmn.org), submit by mail to: Office of the 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](mailto:elections.committee@edmn.org). Note: Education Minnesota includes an insert of all candidates in the Minnesota Educator published prior to the election in April and in a Voter Guide distributed at the Representative Convention. Candidates may submit a photo and statement for inclusion in these publications and the Education Minnesota website. The photo and statement must be submitted using the online submission form at [www.educationminnesota.org](http://www.educationminnesota.org). Statement and photo must be submitted by Dec. 20, 2021.*

(For official use only)

This filing form was received on \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_. Membership was verified on \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.



## Delegate selection for 2022 NEA RA

The National Education Association Representative Assembly, the major decision-making body for the NEA, is scheduled to be held July 2-6, 2022 in Dallas, Texas.

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. 1 and closes Dec. 10. Do not submit the forms before the filing period begins. Forms are also available online in a writable PDF that can be emailed to the elections committee.

Elections will take place in local districts during the 15-day window beginning Feb. 1 and ending Feb. 19. Elections will be held on weekdays only during this period.

Ballots will be mailed the last week of January to all local presidents in districts where an election is necessary.

Nominations for state-credentialed student delegates open Nov. 1 and close Feb. 15. Elections will take place on a date to be determined in April, if necessary.

### 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 6. 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 150 or fewer members send a delegate to the Representative Assembly or the American Federation of Teachers Convention. Local presidents will receive information. If you have any questions around the small local grant program, please contact Vice President Bernie Burnham at [Bernie.Burnham@edmn.org](mailto:Bernie.Burnham@edmn.org).

## Filing Form for NEA RA State-Credentialed Delegate

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

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby submit my name for state credentials to the NEA RA to be held July 2-6, 2022, in Dallas, TX.

OR

I, \_\_\_\_\_, wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_ for state credentials to the NEA RA to be held July 2-6, 2022, in Dallas, TX.

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. 1. Deadline is 11:59 p.m. Dec. 10, 2021.**

*Email completed form to [elections.committee@edmn.org](mailto:elections.committee@edmn.org), submit by mail to: Office of the 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](mailto: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](http://www.educationminnesota.org). Statement and photo must be submitted by Dec. 20, 2021.*

(For official use only)

This filing form was received on \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ Membership was verified on \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

## Filing Form for NEA RA State-Credentialed Delegate: Student

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

I hereby submit my name for state credentials to the NEA RA to be held July 2-6, 2022, in Dallas, TX.

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

### Student

(must be an Education Minnesota Aspiring Educator member)

#### Please complete the following information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ College: \_\_\_\_\_  
 School address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work email: \_\_\_\_\_ Personal email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Summer address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

**Do not submit before filing period begins on Nov. 1. Deadline is 11:59 p.m. Feb. 15, 2022.**

*Email completed form to [elections.committee@edmn.org](mailto:elections.committee@edmn.org), submit by mail to: Office of the 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](mailto: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](http://www.educationminnesota.org). Statement and photo must be submitted by **Feb. 19, 2022**.*

(For official use only)

This filing form was received on \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_, Membership was verified on \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.

## Earn While You Shop

### Three EASY Ways to Get Rewarded!

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Choose your reward at  
[www.uecu.coop](http://www.uecu.coop)

651-264-0669 | 800-229-2848



## 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 go back to local unions to help them win school board and levy elections, as well as support pro-public education candidates at the state and national level.

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 2021-22 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.**

**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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (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 2021-22 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.**

**ORIGINAL SIGNATURE NEEDED.**

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

## Hispanic Heritage Month resources

Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month is Sept. 15-Oct. 15 and the League of Latinx Educators is celebrating and sharing out resources for educators.

This month offers an opportunity for educators to share the diverse Latinx cultures with students.

"The cultural heritage from Latin American is rich and diverse. There are 21 Spanish-speaking countries in the world, with 19 of them being located in the American continent. The colonized countries of the Americas were home to Indigenous languages before the conquest and these Indigenous cultures greatly influenced each region of Latin America. Therefore, it's important to remember that while Spanish speaking

Latin American countries share a common language, their cultural context vary greatly from region to region regarding traditions, art, music and cuisine," the LLE's website shares.

Find more information on the LLE and Latinx culture and traditions on the group's website at <https://sites.google.com/view/leagueoflatinxeducators/cultura>.

The LLE has also created a Google Drive folder with resources for educators. Use the QR Code below to view all of the resources.



## Professional development

### All for Equity virtual national conference

The National Network of State Teachers of the Year and the National Education Association are partnering on a virtual conference for educators, discussing best practices for advancing equity in schools and communities. The conference will take place Oct. 16 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Registration ends Oct. 14 and costs \$50. The NEA has 3,000 free tickets to the event, available first come, first served. Use the promo code NEALeads at checkout to see if free tickets are still available. More information and tickets are available at [www.eventbrite.com/e/all-for-equity-national-convening-tickets-169660604435](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/all-for-equity-national-convening-tickets-169660604435).

### Teach Climate Network Hub

Climate Generation, a nationally recognized nonprofit providing interdisciplinary climate change education training and resources, offers climate change education professional development opportunities for educators in science, humanities and social studies, and author interdisciplinary curriculum resources. Educators can sign up to become a member of the Teach Climate Network and get access to opportunities and resources. Go to [www.climategen.org/teach-climate-network-sign-up](http://www.climategen.org/teach-climate-network-sign-up) to learn more.

### AFT Share My Lesson conference sessions on demand

The American Federation of Teachers' popular lesson plan and resources website, Share My Lesson, also features professional development. All of the sessions from the platform's 2021 virtual conference are now available on demand. Go to <https://sharemylesson.com/vc2021> to see all of the webinars, searchable by topic or specific audience. Each webinar is typically worth one PD credit.

## Grants

### Field trip grants through Minnesota Historical Society

The Minnesota Historical Society offers numerous scholarships and subsidies to help offset the costs of field trips, bus transportation, education programs and teacher workshops. Available are financial assistance for schools with 50 percent or more free and reduced lunch enrollment, admission assistance for grades 4-8, transportation grants and lodging grants. Also available is financial assistance to offset transportation costs and provide free admission to Mill City Museum for metro-area public schools. Limited to visits in January, February and March. To learn more about all of the grants and opportunities, go to [www.mnhs.org/scholarships](http://www.mnhs.org/scholarships).

# 2021-22 Education Minnesota Foundation grant deadlines

The Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning has multiple grants with a deadline approaching. For details about the grants and how to apply, go to [www.edmnfoundation.org](http://www.edmnfoundation.org). There's a grant waiting for you!

## Professional Development Grants for teachers, ESPs and higher education faculty

Awarded twice a year, ESPs and teachers may request up to \$1,500, and higher education faculty may request up to \$3,000 to take the lead in acquiring and sharing new skills and knowledge. These skills might include new instructional ideas, technology, working with parents, attending a conference, etc.

A Professional Development Grant can also be used for groups to either attend professional development or be trained at their worksite.

Deadlines: Nov. 5 and April 11

## National Board Certified Teachers Scholarship

Members can receive \$500 per component, up to \$1,000 total. Deadline: Nov. 5

## Classroom-Focused Grants

Applicants may request up to \$3,000 for a project you design now and implement in the upcoming school year. These grants are available to licensed personnel who wish to improve their practice and student achievement. Deadline: Dec. 3

## Second-Year Classroom Grants

Previous classroom-focused grant recipients may request up to \$3,000 to expand on their original objectives, and who have the potential to realize additional goals based on the learning and outcomes of their first grant. Deadline: April 1

## IMPACT Grant

IMPACT Grant projects must be coordinated by an active member of Education Minnesota who has teamed up with a nonprofit organization or their local union/school district. Approximately \$15,000 is available for one year. The budget should reflect a one-year project. Deadline: Jan. 7

**Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation**  
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# MEMBERS WANT TO KNOW

## *Benefits and services for members*

### Visit the ESI Member Benefits booth at MEA

#### Maximize dollars

We believe educators deserve more and continually look for ways to help you maximize your hard-earned dollars. With the newly enhanced PerksConnect program, there are more ways to save, regardless of your ZIP code.

#### Plan for the Future

For many, budgeting is a monthly struggle and planning for retirement seems unrealistic. A variety of programs will work with you and your unique situation so you can plan for today, as well as the future.

#### Protect loved ones

From aspiring educators to retirees, protecting yourself and loved ones can provide peace of mind. Our benefit partners will work with you to make sure your protection levels is appropriate and affordable.

#### Register to attend an ESI seminar at MEA

##### When Can I Afford to Retire for Members with a PERA Pension

- 1:15-2:15 p.m.
- Classroom 2

##### When Can I Afford to Retire for Members with a TRA Pension

- 2:30-3:30 p.m.
- Classroom 2

##### Using Membership to the Max: Member Benefits

- 3:45-4:45 p.m.
- Classroom 2

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THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL  
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

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

## ***Teacher of the Year nominations open***

Nominations are now open for the 2022 Minnesota Teacher of the Year award, and remain open through Nov. 15.

Nominations can be submitted online by accessing a simple nomination form on [www.educationminnesota.org](http://www.educationminnesota.org).

Eligible nominees must meet these criteria:

- *Teach in a public or nonpublic Pre-K through 12th-grade school or ECFE 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 five years of teaching by the nomination deadline.*
- *Intend to teach during the 2022-23 school year.*

The Minnesota Teacher of the Year is in its 58th year as the state's official recognition program honoring excellence in education.

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

Program and award support also comes from Education Minnesota ESI, Educators Lifetime Solutions, EFS Advisors, the Harvard Club of Minnesota Foundation, SMART Technologies and United Educators Credit Union.

Find out more about the selection process, eligibility, past recipients and more at [www.educationminnesota.org/news/awards/teacher-of-the-year](http://www.educationminnesota.org/news/awards/teacher-of-the-year).

*Minnesota*  
**TEACHER**  
of the **YEAR**