



Belonging to Education Minnesota: Why it matters

Being an educator is one of the hardest jobs — and it's never been more difficult. By joining your state union, you are joining 86,000 educators across the state. As the largest labor union in the state, Education Minnesota is a powerful, collective voice for educators and students.

When you are a member of your local union, Education Minnesota, the National Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers and the AFL-CIO, you will have the strongest possible voice to advocate for students, our profession, public education and our communities.

Together, we're stronger. Together, we're heard.

Respect for the profession

Together, we can demand better pay and benefits that value the important work we do in our schools. A union contract is a tool to address issues in and out of our classrooms and campuses, including class sizes, a dignified retirement, reasonable caseloads and educator voice in decision making. Educators' working conditions are students' learning conditions. Honoring the work of educators means attracting and retaining high-quality staff in our schools, which in turn leads to better outcomes for students.

A seat at the table

Elected officials in your school district, state legislature and U.S. Congress are constantly weighing policies on funding and policies that affect contracts, pensions and teaching and learning. Your local, state and national unions are the way your voice is heard in those rooms. Your union is the one to bring in you — the education experts — to share your stories and perspectives, as well as stand as a powerful, large, collective voice on the issues that matter most to educators and schools.

A place for professional growth

As educators, we value and promote educator quality and improving our practice. Being a part of Education Minnesota means hundreds of frequent, diverse and valuable trainings for educators, by educators, across the state. Our online and in-person trainings are available to members for free.

A champion for our students and communities

While far from perfect, our union and the broader labor movement have a proud and long history of advancing civil rights. These include the rights of our BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ students, colleagues, and neighbors, as well as the right of every citizen to be treated fairly in their workplaces and by our government. Equity work looks different in every district in the state, but educators have a responsibility to eliminate racism, discrimination and poverty so all Minnesota students — no matter what they look like, where they come from or how they identify — can thrive and achieve their dreams.

Updated: June 2023

www.educationminnesota.org

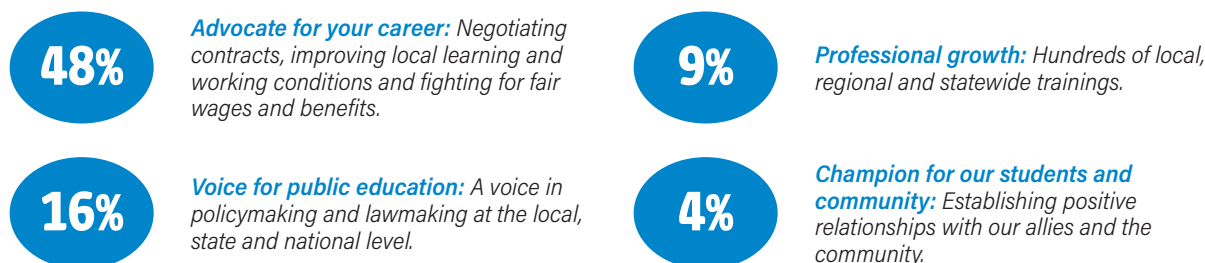
Education Minnesota is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association and AFL-CIO.  2843



**THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS**

Where do my dues go?

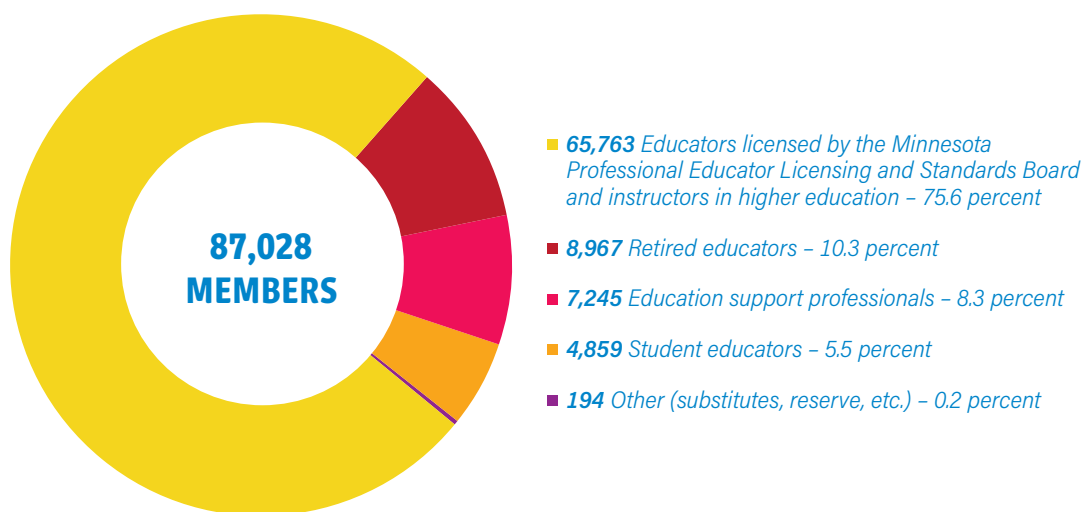
Education Minnesota works to support members every day and promote union values, provide welcoming and relevant opportunities, focus on the recruitment and retention of members while still providing programming for our members to ensure strong locals into the future. Your dues fund that work.



The rest — 23 percent — goes toward union governance and infrastructure. That includes rent, utilities, equipment and tech support for 13 offices across the state. Education Minnesota is governed by three officers and a 47-member governing board elected by members to ensure the union's goals and priorities are driven by members.

Who is Education Minnesota?

Education Minnesota is our state's largest union for educators. From preservice teachers who are studying to enter the profession to retired educators who still work through the union to support colleagues in the classrooms, lunchrooms and college lecture halls, Education Minnesota spans generations in academic settings.



Education Minnesota is made up of 475 local unions. Each is organized to meet the specific needs of members in their job settings and communities.

Our history

Education Minnesota was formed in 1998 when the Minnesota Education Association and the Minnesota Federation of Teachers merged. MEA, originally called the Minnesota State Teachers Association, started in 1861. Education Minnesota is affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association and the AFL-CIO. Through your membership, you are part of the largest labor unions in the country that work together to provide a unified voice for public education and educators.