



VOICE OF EDUCATION IN GREATER MINNESOTA

MREA is the only advocate exclusively for Greater Minnesota districts. Under the leadership of school board members, administrators, teachers and community members, MREA focuses on what puts the education, growth and development of learners first to bring about our best possible future.

KEY ADVOCACY RESULTS

Among the greatest accomplishments of MREA in the 2014-15 biennium include successfully advocating for the lowest funding districts with a highly equalized \$300 board-approved levy and closing the Donut Hole with up to \$424 additional school board LOR authority.

In 2015, MREA successfully advocated for these key issues that became law:

FUNDING

- Reduced the Facilities Fallout inequity with:
 - Long-term maintenance funding with a 3-year phased-in equalized levy
 - Reduced agricultural land valuation in the equalization formula for long-term maintenance
- Increased funding an average 2% on the formula each of the last four years.
- Enhanced coordination of early learning programs within school districts by:
 - Increasing School Readiness funding
 - Allowing districts to transfer fund balances in Fund 4 through FY'17
- Addressed Quiet Teacher Crisis by:
 - Allowing new QComp applications, including cooperatives.
 - Extending one-time Teacher Development and Evaluation (TDE) funding to cooperatives, including Service Cooperatives and Education Districts
 - Beginning new loan forgiveness and scholarship programs for teachers
- Expanded opportunity and closed funding gaps by:
 - Expanding funding for American Indian students in Minnesota public schools
 - Increasing reimbursement for concurrent enrollment classes
- Funding for a rural principal's academy, Reading Corps, and one district with South Dakota reciprocity issues

POLICY

- Addressed the Quiet Teacher Crisis by:
 - Allowing teachers with three years of successful teaching experience to get a restricted license to continue in their current position, regardless of MTLE scores
 - Exempting CTE teachers from licensing requirements through 2020
 - Allowing ATPPS (QComp) revenue for hiring bonuses
- Expanded opportunities and closed gaps by:
 - Clarifying conditions under which agriculture, computer and Project Lead the Way classes can fulfill science and math credits
 - Allowing 11th graders to take the ACT on school time at school for free, but no 11th grader is required to take the ACT
 - Establishing realistic criteria for World Language Certificates and Seals leading to college credit in Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system
 - Establishing portability of Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) credits within MnSCU institutions
- Increased local control by:
 - Allowing districts to begin school Sept 1, 2015
 - Allowing current 4 day a week school districts to continue through 2019/20
 - Requiring the Commissioner to approve or deny flexible learning year applications within 45 business days
 - Allowing districts to contract for special education student information systems
 - Allowing districts to determine whether 9th and 10th graders are ready for concurrent enrollment classes
 - Blocking attempts to define allowable physical education participation excuses

MREA

Voice For Greater Minnesota Education

Learn more at MnREA.org

HOW WE CONNECT WITH MEMBERS

- Weekly insider briefings on key issues and legislative news.
- Action Alerts to help you effect change on the issues that matter to you.
- Email Alerts when key legislation is passed with its impact.
- Interactive maps and analysis that illustrate the impact of an issue for schools.
- Lobbyists at the Capitol focused on key issues impacting schools.
- Capitol Insider Blog honing in on key issues facing schools and the impact.
- Professional development and networking at the Annual Conference in November.
- Regional meetings to discuss issues and connect with other members.
- Lower ACT prep costs for districts through partnership with John Baylor Test Prep.
- Social Media Partnership Project with strategy and training on using social media to connect with parents and their communities.
- Exclusive pricing for school branding and social media integration to increase parent and community engagement with PreciouStatus.

Learn more at MnREA.org

99%

OF MEMBERS SEE MREA'S
COMMUNICATIONS AS EFFECTIVE.

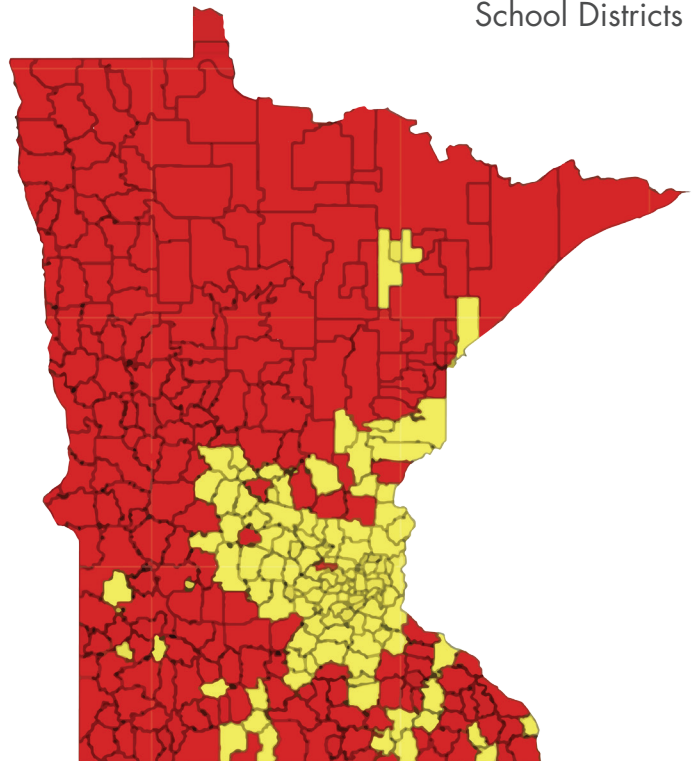
"I am very happy that we became a member of MREA. I am impressed, in particular, with the webinars that update us on what is happening at the capitol. It is apparent we have a great lobbyist in Sam. I appreciate your responsiveness to concerns that I have had in the short time I have been with MREA."

~ Bob Indihar, Superintendent, Moose Lake Community Schools

"Where education policy affects rural education, MREA identifies it, analyzes it, tracks it and advocates on behalf of rural education."

Fred Nolan, MREA Executive Director

■ MREA Member
School Districts



In addition to 212 Greater Minnesota School Districts, MREA members include:

- Service Cooperatives
- Minnesota Education Districts Association
- Colleges & Universities
- Businesses & Nonprofits
- Individuals

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