

September 22, 2020 – Education Minnesota Share Lair – Supporting ESPs

We are living in unprecedented times. The challenges students, educators and public education overall will face in the coming months require collective action. Luckily, your union is a perfect vehicle through which we can make our goals reality.

Education Minnesota's Unity Campaign is a movement with an eye on the much-deserved prize: fully funded schools in Minnesota. **By getting 100 percent of educators to vote for public education in November, engaging parents and community voters in the election and beyond, and uniting our coworkers and communities in a statewide movement for full, equitable funding of public education this spring, we can begin to reverse decades of underfunding and inequality.**

So how do you fit into the Unity Campaign? Since many of us have adjusted to different ways of work—Zoom meetings, phone calls, using collaborative online tools—it makes sense that the ways in which we spread the message about the Unity Campaign for fully funded schools in Minnesota would be different from how it was done in previous campaigns.

Long story short: digital engagement—meaning utilizing your social media channels to share our message, build capacity and support to accomplish our goals—is more important than ever.

Recognizing the indispensable efforts of our education support professionals (ESPs) is the focus of our newsletter this week.

Anti-Racism Daily: Fight for fair labor

Take a look at a recent newsletter from [Anti-Racism Daily](#), an email that you can sign up to receive each day. The Sept. 10 newsletter titled "[Fight for fair labor](#)" offers some great action steps you can take to support labor and workers. It also highlights issues familiar to many ESPs, such as some of the ways in which low-wage workers are exploited and treated unfairly, including lack of job security and affordable benefits.

Education Minnesota's Education Support Professionals Bill of Rights

Did you know your union has a firm stance on ensuring ESPs get the respect they deserve? Take some time to read through the [ESP Bill of Rights](#). It has concrete legislative positions that could be taken to ensure ESPs get the respect, wages, benefits and safe working conditions they deserve.

By the way, [nominations for ESP of the Year](#) are open!

Twitter/Facebook prewritten posts

Copy/paste the prewritten tweets/Facebook posts below to share how crucial ESPs are for our schools to function properly. Feel free to edit the text as it relates to you and your education role.

- ESPs play a vital role in children's lives, especially in their health and safety. We need qualified, caring people in every job in every school. #rESpect #edmnvotes
- Districts should pay their ESPs a living wage. Every school employee should have the right to spend time at home with their own kids, without working two or three extra jobs to survive. #rESpect #edmnvotes
- Teachers can't function at their very best if ESPs aren't there to help them. Without ESPs, teachers would have less time to do what they do well in the classroom. It's time to treat ESPs with the respect they deserve. #rESpect #edmnvotes
- ESPs are often the employees delivering meals, technology and paper materials to students. Many ESPs also have to advocate for proper safety and distance requirements in schools. And yet, ESPs are frequently the first to lose pay during crises like the COVID-19 pandemic. #edmnvotes

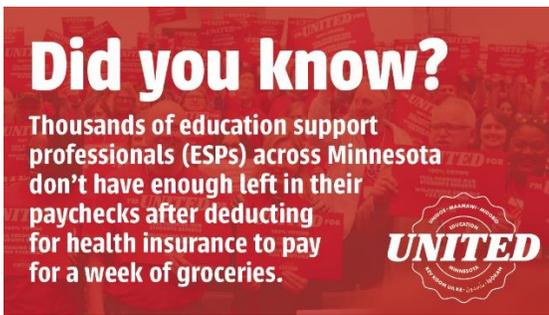
- Strong, active ESP unions command respect from their admin and provide a voice in decisions on staffing levels and working conditions. Pay and benefits can improve if we elect the right leaders to the legislature—and then hold them accountable for their promises. #edmnvotes
- Paychecks for education support professionals (ESPs) are connected to the state budget. Vote for legislators who will increase the state’s investment in public education—and then hold them accountable for their promises. #rESPEct #edmnvotes
- Many ESPs are the first people students see in the morning and the last adults they see when they leave. Despite the importance of their roles, some ESPs feel like they’re forgotten when the district makes decisions about working conditions. #rESPEct #edmnvotes

Shareables

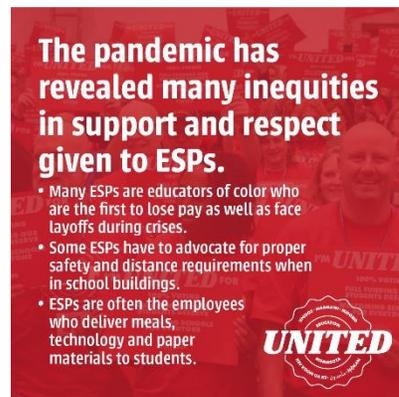
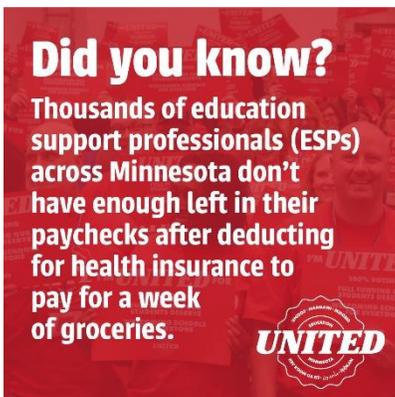
View our ESP shareables below. Find all of our shareables at: <https://www.edmnvotes.org/digital-engagement-resources/>

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