

October 15, 2020 – Education Minnesota Share Lair – Education Funding

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.

This week our newsletter covers why our students, educators and communities deserve fully funded schools.

COVID-19 and School Funding

The nonpartisan Learning Policy Institute has a blog series titled "[Learning in the Time of COVID-19](#)." One of the recent [posts](#) in that series discusses what we can expect when it comes to school funding as it relates to the pandemic. The post explains how education funding works in the United States, and it ends with some steps education leaders can consider taking as difficult budgetary decisions arise. The author of that post also created an interactive tool called [Coronavirus Stimulus for Schools: Calculating What Your State Gets and What It May Need](#), where you can select different states to see how education funding will be impacted in 2020-21.

Resource from www.edmnvotes.org: Education Funding

It is possible for schools and educators to have everything they need for students to thrive but providing a high-quality and equitable education costs money. Considering the pandemic, many decision-makers will try to argue that there is no extra funding for schools; but the truth is that there is money available for our schools, it is just concentrated in the wrong places. The economic pain of the pandemic has not been shared equally. In fact, the Institute for Policy Studies [reported](#) that in just the three weeks between March 18 and April 10, 2020, the wealth held by the nation's billionaires increased by \$282 billion, an almost 10 percent gain, to \$3.23 trillion.

Education Minnesota has a [one-pager](#) summarizing things to know about public education funding. Check out the [education funding](#) page on the campaign website for even more resources.

Story to share with your networks

Check out this news story covering the digital divide and how it relates to education funding. Consider sharing the link on your social media channels:

- The New York Times article, "[The Digital Divide Starts With a Laptop Shortage](#)," explains how school districts that were already struggling to make ends meet early in the pandemic found themselves at a disadvantage once summer rolled around and it was time to make purchases for equipment for students to use during this current school year. The biggest takeaway? "Districts with deep pockets often win out."

Facebook prewritten posts

Copy/paste the prewritten Facebook posts below to share your thoughts and concerns related to education funding. Feel free to edit the text as it relates to you and your education role.

- Minnesotans want our children to get a great and equitable education. But some politicians try to fuel divisions when it comes to adequately funding public schools. Instead these politicians only look out for their corporate funders. But Minnesotans are smart enough to know that together we can elect leaders who prioritize our children's futures, and the first step is to be a voter. #edmnvotes
- No matter what we look like or where we come from, we all want to see our students thrive at great public schools. However, a handful of elected leaders try to fuel divisions when it comes to making sure our schools have what they need to help students succeed. Fortunately, Minnesotans know that together we can rewrite the rules so the richest 1 percent will pay their fair share so our communities have what they need to support our schools. #edmnvotes

Twitter prewritten posts

Copy/paste the prewritten tweets below to share your thoughts and concerns related to education funding. Feel free to edit the text as it relates to you and your education role.

- With fully funded schools, I know my students would have the resources they need to thrive. I'm voting for candidates who promise to deliver a future to students and educators where success is possible for everyone, regardless of their ZIP code. #edmnvotes
- I want leaders in the Legislature who will reverse decades of underfunding of our schools. I want leaders who will show me they are serious about student and educator success. I want leaders who will fully fund our schools. Together, we can vote for candidates who will be champions for public education. #edmnvotes

Education Minnesota Election 2020 Voter Guide – research and learn about the candidates on your ballot!

Be sure to check out Education Minnesota's Election 2020 Voter Guide, which has tons of information related to candidates running for office across the state. After scoping out your own ballot, be sure to spread the word on your social media channels by posting this [voter guide shareable](#). You can also request your own customized voter guide shareable (here's an example of a [customized voter guide shareable](#) for Rochester) by emailing Matt Blewett at matt.blewett@edmn.org. **In your request, please include the name of your local or school district exactly as you want it written on the shareable and the Senate districts that are part of your district.**

Don't forget: Enter our voting story contest for a chance to win a gift card!

Remember to post your voting story, a picture and your vote plan, and include the hashtag #edmnvotes for a chance to win a gift card! The contest goes until Oct. 31, and you can find more information in [this graphic](#).

Shareables

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

Click the image to download it full size.

Facebook/Instagram shareables:

Certain politicians have deprived educators of the resources needed to reach and teach every child, just as those politicians have called for reopening policies that put families of color and families in poverty at higher risk during this pandemic.



Together, we can swear in new leaders who will fund our lives, so we all can care for our families, set our students up to thrive, and have full and healthy futures ourselves.

#edmnvotes



Due to the chronic refusal to pay for special education services at both the state and federal levels, school districts redirect about more than \$700 million to those services from their general education budgets.

#edmnvotes




Electing leaders who will fully fund our schools is more important now than ever before. Some politicians will use COVID-19 as an excuse to push for even more tax cuts by arguing that all students lost ground when schools closed. But the truth is, the outbreak has made Minnesota's racial and social opportunity gaps even worse.

#edmnvotes



Over the last two decades, per-pupil aid to schools, in real dollars, has fallen by as much as \$2,000.

#edmnvotes




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Know someone who might want to receive this newsletter? Have them fill out this [quick form](#) to be added to the list!

