

Oct. 22, 2020 – Education Minnesota Share Lair – Racial Equity and Social Justice

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.

Want to help us spread the word to your colleagues? Sign up to text!

We have big plans following the election, and we are looking for reliable “Hustle captains” to help send personalized texts to members of your local. You’d be reaching out using the peer-to-peer-texting service [Hustle](#). EdMN staff load pre-written messages and replies, and you can let us know if you want the message customized. The messages are sent through the Hustle app as texts, so your phone number isn’t shared. It takes about 10 minutes to send 300 initial messages, and then you check the app to respond to replies. It is one of the most effective communication methods because getting texts from people you know is more meaningful than getting texts from strangers. And it is fun!

If you’re interested, please complete [this form](#) by noon on Monday, Oct. 26. We have a message we are looking to send out next week. You can contact [Matt Blewett](#) at 612-267-4763 with any questions.

Addressing racial and social justice inequities within our schools is this week’s topic.

Restorative Practices: A Guide for Educators

Restorative justice is not a program or field of study. Instead, it is a philosophy restorative practitioners use to approach the world. Restorative justice philosophy originated with North American Indigenous peoples, and it got a boost from successful implementation in the criminal justice system in the United States. Restorative practices are methods used to live in accordance with the principles of restorative justice. Learn more about restorative justice and its benefits in [Section 5](#) of Education Minnesota’s Educator Policy Innovation Center Report, “[Building an Equitable School System for All Students and Educators.](#)”

For more information on restorative justice, check out [this guide](#) from the Schott Foundation for Public Education. It includes a toolkit to help educators better understand restorative practices. You can also download and share this [infographic](#) from the Schott Foundation that compares a day at a school with restorative practices in place to a zero-tolerance education system.

Resource from www.edmnvotes.org: Racial equity and social justice

Education Minnesota has a [one-pager](#) full of statistics relating to equity as well as steps educators can take to make their schools more equitable. Check out the [racial equity and social justice](#) page on the campaign website for even more resources.

Stories to share with your networks

Check out these news stories covering racial and social justice issues in education. Consider sharing the link on your social media channels:

- Distance learning has posed challenges for many of us, and for some folks those challenges extend further than the classroom. This MinnPost story, "[Doing school from home, without a home: An aspiring graduate shares her experience](#)" follows an unhoused student trying to make it to graduation while working full-time to help support her family.
- MPR News reports in "['I'm not alone': Minnesota students of color lead movement for equity in schools](#)" that students across the country are finding ways to push for anti-racist changes to curriculum, school boards and school discipline policies. The article highlights anti-racist work being championed by students in Minnetonka and Stillwater.

Facebook prewritten posts

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

- African-American students are eight times more likely to be suspended or expelled than their white peers, according to the most recent state data. We need decision-makers at the Legislature who will put an end to discipline disparities in our schools and communities. #edmnvotes
- One out of every five or six Black students is suspended, compared to just one in 40 white students, according to the most recent state data. As an educator, I'm voting for candidates who understand student discipline disparities and will work to end them. #edmnvotes

Twitter prewritten posts

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

- African-American students are 8 times more likely to be suspended or expelled than their white peers, state data shows. We need decision-makers at the Legislature who will put an end to discipline disparities in our schools and communities. #edmnvotes
- I want leaders in the Legislature who will show they are serious about finding solutions to the opportunity gap. I want leaders who recognize that MN isn't equitable, but it can be with the right resources. Together, we can vote to make public education better. #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 racial equity and social justice 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:

American Indian students are 10 times more likely to be suspended or expelled than their white peers.

#edmnvotes

Source: Minnesota Department of Human Rights, 2015-2016



High-quality preschool reduces the opportunity gap by 30 percent.



#edmnvotes

Source: Review of Agricultural Economics



Black students account for 19 percent of all public preschool students, but represent 47 percent of students suspended from preschool.



#edmnvotes

Source: Government Accountability Office



Schools should have one counselor for every 250 students. Minnesota has one for every 723.

#edmnvotes

Source: American School Counselor Association and Education Minnesota EPIC Report



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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!

