

Minnesota Rural Education Association

VOICE FOR EDUCATION IN GREATER MINNESOTA



98%

Superintendents are **satisfied** with the work of MREA.*

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

At the Capitol and in your Community

MREA legislative actions and successes in the 2013 legislative session:

- Took a leadership role on advocating for more equitable funding for schools and the need for a minimum \$300/per pupil operating referendum.
- Provided powerful testimony with the release of a map of inequities based on the 5/95th percentile that shows 94 districts at the bottom and the majority of those in rural areas.
- Released maps comparing property wealth of districts and relative tax efforts required for referendum and ANTC levies that were used by legislators when debating different approaches to tax policy, equalization, a General Education Levy (GEL), and property tax relief.
- Led Minnesota's Assessment & Accountability Working Group that provided recommendations to the Legislature to eliminate the GRAD and replace it exams aligned with college entrance.
- Seen as a key expert resource on assessment and accountability practices in the state.

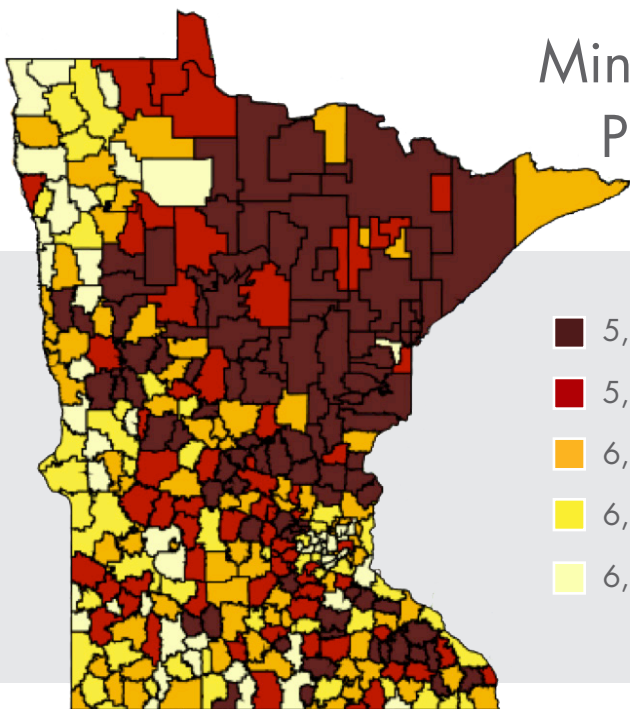
Key Issues

MREA provided key resources and advocacy for members on the four issues they identified as critical:

- School Finance
 - Assessment & Accountability
 - Teacher Quality
 - Achievement Gap
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- Advocated for the repeal of the GRAD rule.
 - Provided expertise and advocacy on the need for Minnesota Teacher License Exam (MTLE) reform.
 - Successfully advocated for the appointment of two rural members to the Board of Teaching.
 - Presented Facility Study proposal to Senator Stumpf that he then added as an amendment to the Omnibus Bill.
 - Educated members with a clear comparison chart of the three proposals for the House and Senate Omnibus Bills and the Governor's proposals.
 - Formed American Indian Advisory Committee to better serve AMI students and help close the achievement gap.

Get the latest updates at MnREA.org

Minnesota's General Fund Inequities in Per Pupil Investment, The 5th to 95th



- 5,299.00 to 5,848.99 Lowest Funded Districts Per WADM
- 5,849.00 to 6,049.99 Medium Low Funded Districts per ADM
- 6,050.00 to 6,319.99 Average Funded Districts per WADM
- 6,320.00 to 6,77.99 Medium High Funded Districts per WADM
- 6,718.00 to 8,820.00 Highest Fund Districts per WADM

View the interactive map at: MnREA.org/issues/mapping-the-issues

Key Ways We're Serving Schools

Advocacy | Professional Development | Networking

- Two lobbyists dedicated to the issues that matter to MREA members.
- Keeping members informed of legislative action and how it affects their districts.
- Developing interactive maps and analysis that illustrate the impact of an issue for schools.
- A Capitol Insider Blog by MREA Lobbyist Sam Walseth that hones in on key issues facing schools and the impact.
- An analytical blog by MREA Lobbyist Vernae Hasbargen that provides background on the issues and takes you to the decision-making tables.
- Professional development and networking at the Annual Conference in November.
- Regional meetings to discuss issues and connect with other districts.

97%

of Superintendents see MREA as effective in providing a unified voice for rural schools.

- Lower professional learning costs for member districts through partnerships with Atomic Learning, Editure, and Rubicon International's Atlas Curriculum Management System.
- Launched Social Media Project to provide schools with a quick-start strategy and training on how to effectively use social media to connect with parents and their communities.

*Source: Third-Party MREA Membership Survey, April 2012.

Annual Conference

Join us Nov 17-19, 2013

Cragun's on the Lake, Brainerd

Get details at MnREA.org

MREA

Voice For Greater Minnesota Education

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