



**Leading Advocacy for Greater Minnesota Students** Led by school board members, administrators, teachers and other education-focused partners, MREA elevates Greater Minnesota schools through advocacy, education and recognition.

# 2025 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## BUILDING A FAIR & EQUITABLE FUNDING SYSTEM

### **MREA Successfully Advocated for Greater Minnesota Students Through:**

- Preserving the current law inflationary factor for the basic education allowance by defeating a Senate proposal to repeal this statute.
- Acquiring school board authority to levy “above the line” for major roof repair and replacement costs as part of the LTFM program.
- Improving TRA so educators can access retirement benefits at age 60 with 30 years of service.
- Securing a one-time funding infusion of \$55 million to backfill Compensatory Aid falloff with the state moving to Direct Certification.
- Securing state funding for two more years of estimated state mandated summer Unemployment Insurance costs.
- Making the short call substitute licensure flexibility pilot program permanent law, allowing schools to use current paraprofessionals with at least one year of service to the district or persons with an Associates Degree and eliminating the state mandated \$200 daily rate of pay.
- Preserving QComp funding as we seek to expand the program statewide.
- Allowing schools to start on or after Sept. 1 for the 26-27 and 28-29 school years.
- Flexibility for Cooperatives to use \$5,000 of Student Support Personnel Aid to cover associated staff costs including job-embedded coaching and travel.

### **MREA PRIORITIES IN DEVELOPMENT FOR 2026 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET SESSION: CLOSING GAPS**

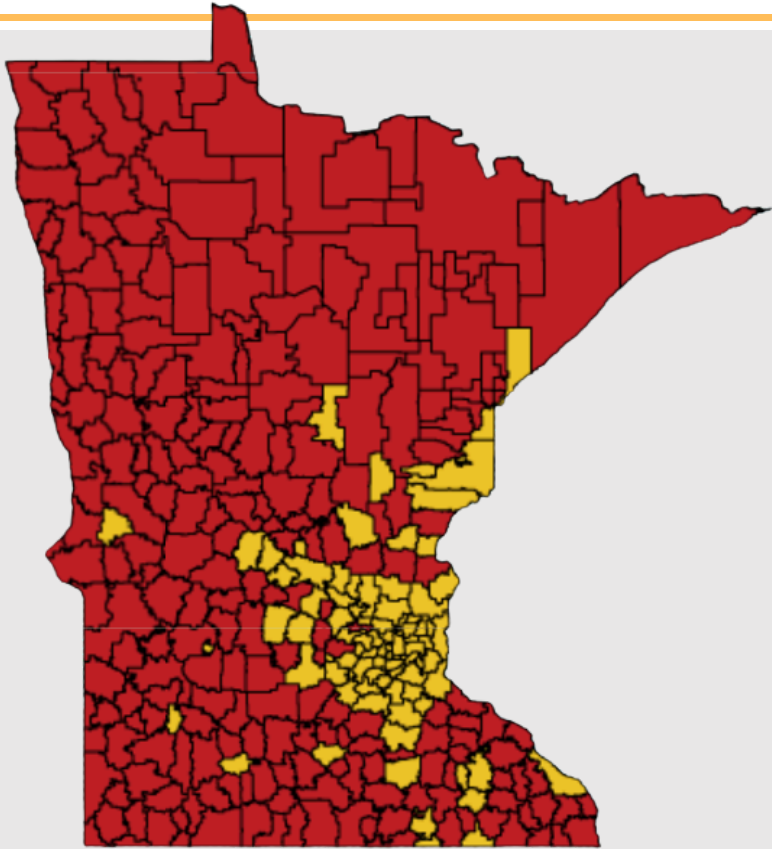
#### **ADVANCING SEASONAL RECREATIONAL TAX BASE REPLACEMENT AID: HF 1161/SF 1997**

Create state funding to reduce local property taxpayer costs of an operating referendum through state reimbursement of Seasonal & Recreational tax base value.

#### **ADVANCING LOCAL OPTIONAL REVENUE: HF 1989/SF 2239**

Increase from \$724/pupil to \$974/pupil, equalized levy, and link LOR to the formula effective in FY28 and beyond.

# How MREA serves YOU



 MREA Member School District



## ADVOCATE

- Lobbyists at the Capitol every day advocating for students
- Weekly Advocacy Briefings during legislative session
- Interactive maps and analysis showing impacts of major changes
- Action alerts to help encourage engagement



## EDUCATE

- Professional development and networking at Annual Conference
- MREA Maps that show funding impact by district / region.
- Regional meetings and trainings to provide input and stay informed
- Member benefits providing learning opportunities
- Discounts on partner programs



## COMMUNICATE & CELEBRATE

- Weekly Insider Briefs with education updates relevant to rural districts
- Website with resources, news, and updates
- Celebration and sharing of accomplishments and best practices
- Awards for teachers and innovative school programs
- In-person visits to keep a pulse on district accomplishments & needs



"MREA is a strong force for advocating for rural students and schools. MREA's communications are effective and timely, the staff is incredible, the website is a valuable resource, and their advocacy at the State Capitol is exemplary."

KARLA BECK, DIRECTOR OF TEACHING & LEARNING  
REDWOOD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



# MREA

Voice For Greater Minnesota Education

LEARN MORE AT [MREAVOICE.ORG](https://mreavoice.org)

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