



MSBA Proposed Resolution Submission Form

Resolution #4: End of Unemployment

Full name of School District: Becker Public Schools

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This resolution is submitted with approval by the school board.

Please provide the date on which the authoring school board approved submission of this resolution: September 9, 2024

**BE IT RESOLVED MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO:**

End the provision of unemployment benefits for school employees during the period between academic terms. The current system, which allows non-instructional staff to collect unemployment during the summer months, should be reconsidered due to the lack of a permanent funding stream, the added administrative burden on school districts, and the negative impact on the availability of summer workers.

**DESCRIBE THE PROBLEM:**

The provision of unemployment benefits to non-instructional school employees during the summer months was enacted during the 2023 legislative session, with limited funding provided to school districts to cover the costs. This funding is expected to end by the summer of 2025 or 2026, leaving districts without a clear way to sustain these payments. Additionally, this extra income is not considered compensation, and it discourages employees from seeking summer work, which exacerbates staffing challenges during the summer.

**EXPLAIN WHY THIS IS A PROBLEM:**

This policy creates several issues for school districts:

*No Permanent Funding Stream: The funding provided to support this unemployment provision is temporary and expected to run out soon. Without additional funding, school districts will struggle to cover these costs.*

*Negative Impact on Summer Staffing: The availability of unemployment benefits during the summer discourages non-instructional staff from seeking employment, leading to a shortage of workers during the summer months when schools often need help with summer school, planning and training, and other tasks.*

*Administrative Burden: The process of managing hundreds of unemployment applications, handling denials, and managing appeals adds a significant administrative burden on school districts, diverting resources from more critical educational needs.*

**PROVIDE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:**

*Law Update from MN Unemployment Insurance: The law passed in 2023 amending the "Between Terms" language allows non-instructional staff to collect unemployment benefits during the summer. This provision is expected to increase the number of unemployment claims from school employees, as highlighted in the update provided by the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development.*

*Legislative Background: An appropriation of nearly \$140 million was requested for the 2024-25 biennium to reimburse schools for their contributions to the unemployment insurance fund. However, this funding is temporary, and the expectation is that it will end by 2025 or 2026, leaving schools without a sustainable way to manage these costs.*

*Testimony and Articles: Various stakeholders, including school district representatives and administrators, have testified and written about the potential impact of this policy on school operations. These testimonies and articles underscore the challenges posed by the unemployment benefits provision, including the difficulty in recruiting summer workers and the administrative burden on schools.*

**For MSBA Staff Use Only:**

**Date Received:** Click or tap to enter a date.

**File Name:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Category:** Choose an item.

**Recommendation:** Choose an item.

**Present Position(s):** Click or tap here to enter text.