



**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.

# 2024 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## BUILDING FOR 2025 AND RESOLVING ISSUES FROM 2023

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

- **READ Act Improvements**
  - \$40/pupil for District costs related to Reading to Ensure Academic Development (READ) Act
  - \$36/pupil for Teacher Stipends for READ Act training and extended deadline
  - Cooperative educational programs included in READ Act funding
- **Other Policy Improvements from 2023 Session**
  - District budget reserve established for Student Support Personnel Aid
  - Expanded Medical Assistance (MA) billing for School Social Workers
  - 5,200 additional Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) slots
  - Cooperatives included in Alternative Learning Center (ALC) Transportation Aid
- **Addressing Staffing Needs**
  - Student Teacher Stipend pilot program funded at \$6.5M
  - Para Flexibility for federal highly qualified requirements to be met next school year
- **Special Education**
  - Expanding special education pipeline grant program to Tier 1 and Tier 2 teachers
- **Addressing Student Issues**
  - Absenteeism - Student Attendance Pilot project sites funded at \$4.7M
- **Elections Bill**
  - School Board Vacancy flexibility when less than 2 years remaining in term

### **MREA PRIORITIES IN DEVELOPMENT FOR 2025 BUDGET SESSION: CLOSING GAPS**

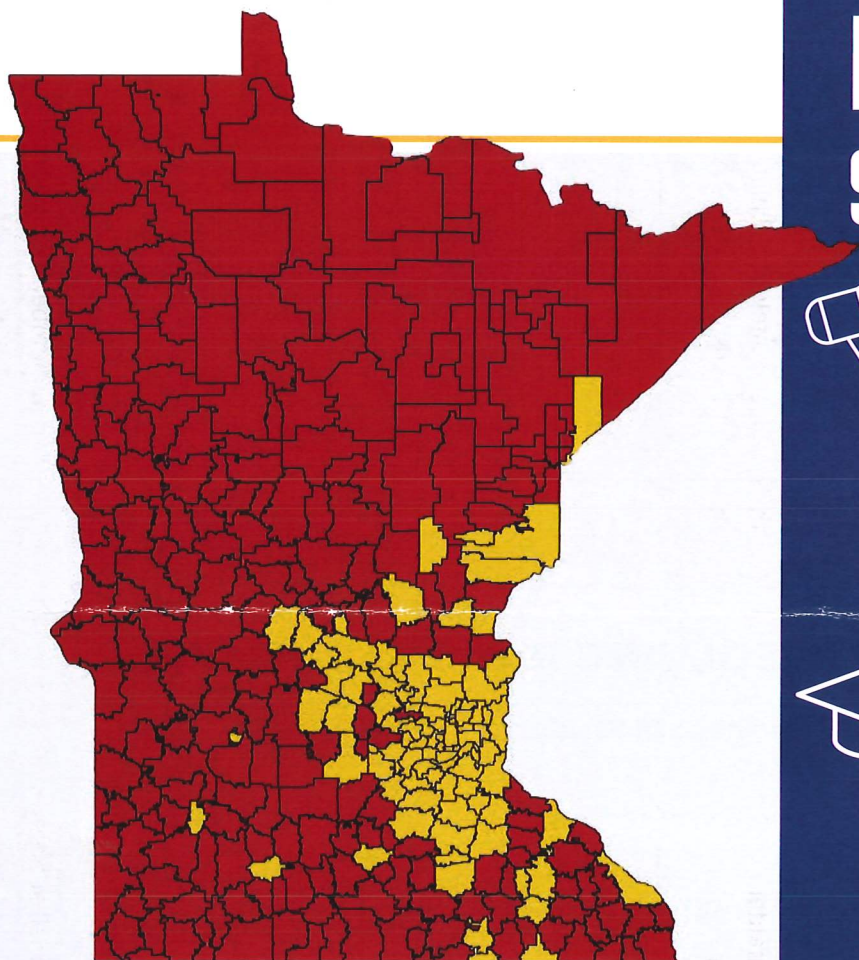
#### **ADVANCING ROOF REPAIR & REPLACEMENT AS PART OF LONG-TERM FACILITIES MAINTENANCE: HF 3558/SF 4305**

Allowing school boards to levy "above the line" costs for roof repair and replacement as part of the LTFM program.

#### **ADVANCING SEASONAL TAX BASE REPLACEMENT AID: HF 4986/SF 4995**

Creating state funding to reduce the local taxpayer cost of an operating referendum by having the State recognize the local loss of Seasonal & Recreational tax base value.





 MREA Member School District



# MREA

Voice For Greater Minnesota Education

LEARN MORE AT [MREAVOICE.ORG](http://MREAVOICE.ORG)

CONTACT US AT

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# How MREA serves YOU



## 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
- 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

