

# Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

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## 2019 Legislative Priorities

The Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MACTE) is comprised of the 31 public and private colleges and universities in Minnesota that prepare teachers for licensure. As we have shaped our legislative agenda in recent years, we have worked to build effective relationships with other education organizations that share common goals for the preparation and licensure of high quality teachers with the skills, knowledge, and dispositions to meet the needs of Minnesota students, schools, and communities. During the 2019 session, our priorities are particularly reflective of these partnerships. We are excited to work with you and our partners as we all seek to ensure that Minnesota students are prepared to become productive workers, engaged citizens, and fulfilled individuals.

**Our overall priority for 2019 is to address the shortage of teachers in Minnesota while upholding the highest standards for licensure.** To that end, we support these priorities of three key partners:

**Reduce the shortage of high quality, fully licensed teachers for rural classrooms.** Schools throughout Minnesota are challenged to find and hire the teachers they need to deliver a full curriculum to their students. To address this challenge, we are supporting the strategies being put forward by the *Minnesota Rural Education Association*. These include proposals to secure adequate, ongoing funding for grants, student teaching stipends and loan forgiveness to attract and retain Promising Teachers in rural Minnesota. We believe that such a multi-faceted approach supported by matching state and local dollars offers great promise to increase the number of teachers licensed to teach in our state.

**Increase the diversity of Minnesota's teaching force and, in so doing, help address the state's teacher shortage.** We have been proud to be an active member of the *Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color and American Indian Teachers in Minnesota* since it's formation. As they have expanded the array of partners around the table, the Coalition has also built a comprehensive plan to attract, prepare, and retain a teaching force in Minnesota that better reflects the racial and ethnic diversity of our classrooms and communities. This includes the expansion of Grow Your Own pathways; increased funding for Collaborative Urban and Greater Minnesota Educators of Color Program Grants; grants for teacher recruitment marketing campaigns; funding of the Aspiring MN Teachers Scholarship Program; funding for the Student Teacher Candidate Grants in Shortage Areas; and funding for the Teacher Shortage Loan Forgiveness Program.

**Reduce shortages by focusing on the working conditions and needs of Minnesota teachers and students.** We know that teacher recruitment and retention both depend in part on the realities that teachers face from year to year. As a result, we support the priorities of *Education Minnesota* to attract and retain educators, particularly educators of color, by increasing starting salaries and creating loan forgiveness, mentoring, and other programs to give them the support needed to stay in their jobs. We also support helping teachers with the least training and academic qualifications improve their practice by appropriating money for training and mentoring programs designed to move Tier 1, 2 and 3 licensed teachers up to Tier 4, and efforts to make postsecondary education affordable and accessible so all students can pursue higher education free from the stress of unmanageable loans and debts.

We also hope to work with you and our partners in 2019 to address the challenges of **special education licensure** and to fine tune the **statutory requirements for data reporting** by teacher preparation programs based on our experiences to date with this recently adopted legislative mandate.