

# Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

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## MACTE Minute: January 2019 Collaborations on Legislative Initiatives with Other Education Organizations

At our November 8 MACTE Business meeting, we heard about legislative priorities from several educational organizations with the goal of finding common ground where we could work together to affect change. This month's MACTE Minute will summarize selected areas of common ground.

### Education Minnesota (<https://educationminnesota.org/advocacy/at-the-legislature/2018-legislative-agenda>):

- Attract and retain educators, particularly educators of color, by increasing starting salaries and creating loan forgiveness, mentoring and other programs to give us the support we need to stay in our jobs. This includes ensuring all education support professionals earn a living wage.
- Uphold Minnesota's high teacher licensing standards to ensure our students have quality educators in their classrooms. Minnesota must create incentive for teachers with the least training and academic qualifications to improve their practice for the benefit of their students and districts. This can be done by appropriating money for training and mentoring programs designed to move Tier 1, 2 and 3 licensed teachers up to Tier 4.
- Expand access to quality, public pre-K programs for all children to address the equity gaps among our students. All pre-K teachers in Minnesota's public schools must be fully licensed.
- Make post-secondary education affordable and accessible so all students can pursue higher education free from the stress of unmanageable loans and debts.

### Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color and American Indian Teachers in MN (<https://educationminnesota.org/advocacy/at-the-legislature/2018-legislative-agenda>):

- Expand Grow Your Own pathways.
- Increase funding for Collaborative Urban and Greater Minnesota Educators of Color Program Grants.
- Grants for Teacher Recruitment Marketing Campaigns to recruit new teachers, especially in identified shortage areas and teachers of color.
- Aspiring MN Teachers Scholarship Program for those who have financial need, are of color, or are first generation college students pursuing licensure in a shortage area and are admitted to preparation programs.
- Student Teacher Candidate Grants in Shortage Areas program targeting financial support to most needed licensure shortage areas in the state as well as diverse candidates.
- Teacher Shortage Loan Forgiveness Program to focus eligibility on licensure areas specific to economic development regions where teachers work along with demographic shortages.

### Minnesota Rural Education Association ([http://www.mreavoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/MREA\\_Platform\\_Draft\\_2019.pdf](http://www.mreavoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/MREA_Platform_Draft_2019.pdf)):

- Secure adequate, ongoing funding for grants, student teaching stipends and loan forgiveness to attract and retain Promising Teachers in rural Minnesota.

MACTE continues to seek opportunities for sustaining and advancing the profession through innovation, diversity, engagement and partnerships. We are excited to see what the new year brings as we work with PELSB and these and other education organizations to ensure that all students have access to a highly qualified teacher in every Minnesota classroom!