THIS WEEK @ THE CAPITOL

HOUSE EDUCATION POLICY COMMITTEE
Monday, February 14th – The Committee heard bills centered around student health resources.

- **HF 2750**: Would require schools to provide students with access to free menstrual products in restrooms. Testifiers asserted that a lack of free and easily available menstrual products (described as “period poverty”) has led students to have significant psychological impacts, excessive school absences, and distractions from focusing on learning.

- **HF 1883**: Would require schools to “maintain a supply of opiate antagonists” for use to reverse a drug overdose. Testifiers discussed how young people are increasingly using substances and losing their lives in Minnesota, but only a fraction of Minnesota schools have “opiate antagonists” on site.

- **HF 224**: This bill amends a current law to require schools to maintain a supply of at least two “epinephrine auto-injectors” or “EpiPens” to be “maintained and administered” by school personnel.

**Wednesday, February 15th** – The Committee heard a bill on Mental Health Service Positions @ MDE.
• **HF 1083**: Would create two school positions at the Department of Education focused on addressing mental health needs for both students and teachers / other school staff. 

_The bill passed and was referred to the Education Finance Committee._

### HOUSE EDUCATION FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Tuesday, February 15th** – The Committee heard bills on increasing training, funding, and support for school paraprofessionals.

- **HF 378**: Would require schools to provide paraprofessionals with expanded paid professional development and more time to review individual student’s needs. Testifiers spoke to the shortage of staffing and hardships in working in these professions due to low wages, inconsistent work hours throughout the year, and the complex current everyday challenges of working in schools in these jobs.
- **HF 2133**: Would address a variety of issues and benefits related to non-licensed school personnel including insurance opportunities, paid leave, increased wages, increased training requirements, required pay during e-learning days, and other employment protections. PELSB also testified about the Special Education teacher shortage crisis, the workload and tiered licensure challenges for SPED teachers, and their support for legislation that expands training and funds programs that help with these issues.

**Wednesday, February 16th**

- **HF 3079 (Increase Teachers of Color Act)** this bill was heard in the Policy Committee last week and was featured in _The Advocate_. This bill strengthens the Teachers of Color Act, increases the percentage of BIPOC teachers, amends the world’s best workforce requirements, and requires further reporting.

**Thursday, February 17th**

- **HF 1035 (Unemployment Eligibility for Hourly School Workers)** Would expand unemployment benefits to eligible hourly school workers between school terms (including bus drivers, contracted workers, and unlicensed school employees). Testifiers discussed the current staffing and workplace challenges for support staff in schools and described the challenges of finding work in the summer.

### SENATE EDUCATION FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

**Monday, February 14th** – The Committee heard a package of “Parents Bill of Rights” bills.

- **SF 2575**: Would require each school district to have a procedure for a parent to “review the content of all instructional materials” “without cost and immediately upon request.” It also requires school districts to notify parents of this policy at the start of each school year.
- **SF 2666:** Would require teachers of record to make a class syllabus electronically available for each course offered.
- **SF 2909:** Would reassert already established parental education and notification rights.
- Would allow community members at school board meetings to testify without publicly disclosing their address or contact information.

**NOTE:** *Minnesota law already requires schools to allow parents to review “the content of instructional materials” and gives parents a variety of pathways for alternative instruction upon request through statute [120B.20](#).*

**Wednesday, February 16th** – The Committee heard three bills.

- **SF 2952:** Would modify the way teacher shortages are tabulated and reported.
- **SF 2861:** Short Call Subs - Would modify short call sub requirements for schools. A variety of testifiers supported the urgent need to adjust this system due to the massive sub shortage in Minnesota Schools.
- MACS provided testimony in support of this in the House, as this issue was included in a larger bill of urgent legislative actions last week (HF 2950). MACS’ written testimony can be read [here](#).
- **SF 2872:** LETRS Grants - Would appropriate an additional 30 million dollars to provide LETRS literacy grants to Minnesota schools. Testifiers spoke to the urgency of addressing reading learning shortfalls for Minnesota students and advocated that this “science of reading” evidence-based approach was a tested and effective tool.

**OTHER EDUCATION BILLS INTRODUCED THIS WEEK**

**NOTE:** Please keep in mind that when a bill is introduced, it **does not mean** it will be heard in Committee or will be passed into law.

- **SF 3130 / HF 3343:** EQUAL ACCESS ATHLETICS – TEAMS / FACILITIES "a public school or a school that is a member of the Minnesota State High School League must allow a student to participate in sex-segregated interscholastic or intramural athletics consistent with their gender identity, regardless of their gender at birth." ... " and be allowed to use school facilities, including bathrooms and locker rooms, consistent with their gender identity, regardless of their gender at birth."
- **SF 3094 / HF 3260:** MALICIOUS AND SADISTIC CONDUCT: "A school board must adopt a written policy to address malicious and sadistic conduct involving race, religion, sexual harassment, sexual orientation, and sexual exploitation..." (section 121A.031)
- **SF 3173:** SUBSTANCE MISUSE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION: "A public school must provide substance misuse awareness and prevention instruction at least once to students in grades 6 through 8 [and] use age-appropriate substance misuse prevention instructional materials."
- **HF 3251:** DEAF / HARD OF HEARING EDUCATION: A charter school serving at least 90 percent of deaf / hard of hearing students may give enrollment preference to a student whose primary disability is deaf / hard of hearing.
MORE LEGISLATORS ANNOUNCE RETIREMENTS

- Senator Julie Rosen – (R-23) – No charter schools in District

NEXT WEEK @ THE CAPITOL - FEBRUARY 14-18

- **Monday, February 21st** – House Education Policy Committee – **HF 3260** Malicious and Sadistic conduct prohibited involving race, religion, sexual harassment, sexual orientation, and sexual exploitation. **HF 3378** Student Bullying Legislation.
- **Monday, February 21st** – Senate Education Committee – **SF 1525** Education Savings Accounts for Students Act **SF 0362** High school graduation requirements to include personal finance.
- **Tuesday, February 22nd** – House Ed Finance Committee – **HF 1083** Comprehensive school mental health service lead position established.
- **Wednesday, February 23rd** – House Education Policy Committee – **HF 3243** Computer Science Education Blueprint / Task Force, **HF 3424** Ethnic Studies Requirement / Task Force
- **Wednesday, February 23rd** – House Ed Finance Committee – **HF 3088** Permanent Funding for Minnesota Math Corps, **HF 3300** Language Essentials for Teaching of Reading and Spelling Grants, and **HF 3344** Minnesota Science Teachers Association and Minnesota Council of Teachers of Mathematics Grants.

"Unleashing education from convention" - is more than the MACS motto, it is a reminder of our purpose, our goals and it serves as a clarion Call To Action.
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