



2023 Teachers' Legislative Priorities

Address teaching shortages, improve recruitment and retention, and grow the teaching profession

- **Enhance Teachers' Salaries** and make them commensurate with professions with similar levels of education and training.
- **Provide Tuition Assistance** to students pursuing teaching degrees and teachers pursuing master's level coursework.
- **Enact Meaningful Teacher Evaluation** that supports professional growth.
- **Provide COVID-19 Retirement Credit** to acknowledge teachers' role in providing quality education through the pandemic.
- **Ensure Fairness in the Workplace** by improving binding arbitration in contract negotiations and due process for matters relating to workplace discipline.

Improve the education experience for teachers and students

- **Promote Play-Based Learning** by requiring free play, guided play, and games be incorporated into preK and kindergarten throughout the school day and by permitting teachers to use play-based strategies in first through fifth grade classrooms.
- **Reduce Standardized Testing** by addressing the impact of excessive standardized testing and promoting innovative alternatives.
- **Reduce Class Sizes** through incentives to help school districts improve teacher to student ratios.
- **Guarantee Prep Time** by ensuring self-directed, duty-free prep time for all teachers.
- **Support English Language Learning** by increasing resources for English learners and bilingual education.
- **Raise Kindergarten Start Age** by requiring children attending kindergarten to be at least 5 years old by Sept. 1, rather than Jan. 1.
- **Prevent Dual Instruction** by maintaining, and if necessary, strengthening the prohibition on all dual teaching, a method of instruction which requires teachers to instruct in-person and online at the same time.
- **Address Children's Mental Health** by maintaining, and if possible, increasing state support for resources and certified staff.

Ensure safe air quality and temperature conditions

- **Establish Indoor Temperature & Humidity Standards**
- **Ensure School Indoor Air Quality Enforcement and Oversight**
- **Provide Long-Term Facility Investment** to assist municipalities with proper school HVAC maintenance and installations in addition to other critical facilities improvements.