

Resolution in Support of Minneapolis Federation of Educators, Local 59

Graduate Labor Union - UE 1105

Presented to the General Membership Meeting (GMM), October 15, 2025

WHEREAS the Minneapolis Federation of Educators, Local 59 (MFE) is a union of teachers, other licensed staff and Educational Support Professionals (ESP) working in Minneapolis Public Schools. MFE is affiliated with Education Minnesota, the American Federation of Teachers, and the National Education Association and represents over 4500 staff members in about 70 schools and educational programs in Minneapolis.

WHEREAS negotiations have been in process with the Minneapolis Public School district since April, yet have seen very little movement from the district.

WHEREAS MFE has published a [bargaining proposal tracker](#), a [summary of their proposals](#), and a [report](#) on the future plans of the Minneapolis Public School district.

WHEREAS MFE reached out to GLU-UE on October 6th, 2025, seeking support via the MFE59 Community Sign-On Letter, the full text of which is at the bottom of this resolution.

WHEREAS it is advantageous for GLU-UE to support and be in solidarity with other labor unions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that GLU-UE will sign onto this Community Sign-On Letter

Organizational Sign-On: MPS Needs to Invest, Attract and Expand - Not Cut, Close and Shrink!

Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS), the beloved school district of more than seventy schools encompassing the entire city of Minneapolis, is at a crossroads.

On the one hand, educational breakthroughs happen every day in our classrooms, with students, educators, staff, and families working together to help students grow and develop as learners and community members. These small, daily victories, the miracles of public education, will never be measured by test scores, but are present in every school in MPS.

On the other hand, our district's success has been constrained by a model of "managed decline" in which we accept that we can't compete with other school systems and that the future of MPS is grim. MPS has been underfunded (and thus undermined) for decades, and the ill-conceived Comprehensive District Design (CDD) sapped overall confidence in our district. In parts of the city - particularly North Minneapolis - this has exacerbated years of disinvestment and the expansion of charter schools. Open enrollment to other public districts has further siphoned enrollment from MPS.

MPS leaders have expressed interest in making MPS a "Destination District" once again, one that attracts families and staff from around the region as it once did. But if they're serious about pursuing that goal, they'll need to make a deliberate pivot away from one model of governance and toward another.

The first model - cut, close, shrink - is what MPS has followed for years. In this model, we accept that our public schools can't and won't compete with other school options such as charter schools, nearby public school districts or private schools. Currently only 57% of eligible students in Minneapolis attend MPS schools. In this model, costs are cut to guarantee fiscal conservatism and high bond ratings, but it's unclear how enrollment or staff retention will ever improve. Sadly, it's conceivable that a whole section of the city such as North Minneapolis could end up without a public school, with an impact on our tax base, our real estate markets and our city's leadership pipeline for public service.

The second model - invest, attract, expand - involves making the investments needed to ensure that our district thrives and attracts more students. There are roughly 23,000 students in Minneapolis who don't attend MPS. The things that would bring families back to MPS are clear - MPS caregivers have expressed that class size and special education staffing are top priorities - so this model involves making the investments needed to attract and retain families.

Increased revenue - each student that enrolls in MPS brings more than \$14,000 in revenue per year from the state - covers the cost of these investments, creating a virtuous cycle and an overall increase in confidence in our public schools. In other words, "Destination District" isn't just a slogan; it's a business model, and it starts with investment.

The choice between these models will have a major impact on the future of our district, and potentially our city.

We call on MPS leaders to make the investments needed to attract families back to MPS and to retain our valuable educators. Specifically, we call for:

- Dramatically lower class sizes with a clear mechanism for enforcement;
- Safe staffing for Special Education;
- A working group on MPS enrollment that involves educators, administrators, families, and community members;
- Wages and hours that can sustain Educational Support Professionals (paraprofessionals) on one job; and
- Protections for immigrant, indigenous, and LGBTQIA+ educators.

As community organizations invested in the future of our schools and our city, we know that we can't cut our way to being a Destination District. We stand with educators, families and students who are working for long-term changes to the MPS budget, the state budget, and to local and state policies so that our students have the public school district they deserve well into the future.