



EDUCATION MINNESOTA
ASPIRING EDUCATORS

Aspiring Educators Speak Up for Student Teacher Support

9 out of 10 schools are currently significantly affected by the teacher shortage, according to the latest PELSB report. We need to support student teachers to attract more young people into this essential profession.

Enrollment for future teachers in our higher education programs across the state are **half of what they were a decade ago**. Waiving tuition during our mandatory semester of student teaching in our public schools would go a long way to help. Few students take other classes during this time, and are working full-time assisting teachers, helping students and serving as another adult in the room during the educator shortage. Future teachers face significant student debt and low starting salaries compared to other sectors, and this is one way to address worries around paying student loans as they're starting in the profession.

As of now, the Office of Higher Education has a student teacher stipend program that caters to specific shortage areas, **but it lacks applicants and reach**. Our bill expands eligibility to all aspiring educators, as **every topic area is a shortage area** currently in Minnesota, while setting a standard stipend that amounts to \$15 an hour, addressing the increased cost of living during college students' mandatory student teaching semester. Student teaching is a full-time job, and many of these students struggle to keep their part-time or full-time afterschool jobs to make ends meet.

We asked college students in teacher preparation programs what financial support in the form of student teacher pay and waived tuition would mean for them and their future.

Please consider the following thoughts and stories from student teachers and aspiring educators across the state.

Emily Stiverson

University of Minnesota Duluth

I would be able to afford food and essential goods and products. Currently I can only buy cheap quality food and a small amount of it. I also am struggling to afford basic products like feminine hygiene. Most of my money goes to gas, I travel 26.6 miles to the school and another 26.6 miles back to campus. I am struggling having enough money to afford an oil change which is needed for my car.

Lily Kieser

Winona State University

During student teaching, students are expected to "work" full-time at school and still pay tuition for the credits. This is incredibly difficult to manage when students need to pay for rent, gas, and insurance, if they are told to quit their current job or told that they cannot have a job while student teaching. Having student teaching be a paid position would allow students to be supported financially so they can keep paying rent, gas, groceries, and insurance.

Henry Kellerhuis

University of Minnesota Duluth

As a current student teacher if I were paid for the work that I am currently doing, I would not have to work a part time job on top of the responsibilities of being a full time teacher, and student to be able to pay groceries and survive. If I did not luck into only having to teach 2 classes for my first 8 weeks, so I could complete my EdTPA during that time and my last 8 weeks transferring over to a new classroom who already has the entire curriculum made and planned

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**THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS**

months in advance, I would not be able to survive on my own. I would be required to take out additional loans which likely would not hit my bank account in the time I would need them or receive handouts from family.

Student teaching is a requirement for us to get our teaching license and this isn't a typical 9-5 student internship where once you leave you are done for the day. As a student teacher you have the full responsibility as a classroom teacher, as a student, while also not getting paid. In fact we have to pay to be there in the first place by having to pay for tuition. Other higher respected disciplines and careers like engineering, your internships that you have to complete to graduate are typically paid.

Teaching is a career, that is facing incredible scrutiny in the media currently and is experiencing a nationwide shortage. One of the ways we can mitigate this issue is make the individuals who actively want to pursue a career in student teaching feel respected and able to live by offering them some financial compensation for the very real work and important service we provide to the nation's youth.

Dawn Helberg

Bemidji State University

Considering I have two children it would make it so I could spend time with my children at night instead of getting a night job to pay my bills.

Alex Pierce

University of Minnesota Duluth

Paid student teaching would allow me to focus on my students' success and the betterment of my teaching skills without having to worry about paying for my needs. I currently work part-time along with my class in order to support myself. Student teaching for 40 hours a week along with working a part time jobs add to my already busy schedule and takes focus away from my classroom.

Adriana Bermudez

Southwest Minnesota State University

I will be able to finally obtain my bachelor's degree in early childhood education. Getting paid while doing my student teaching will mean getting it done quicker than having to be off for 12 weeks and unpaid. I won't have to work evenings or overnights 7 days a week on top of the student teaching hours to get by to make money for my bills. I live with my boyfriend and my dog and although he makes good money, in this economy we cannot afford for me to not get paid for 12 weeks. I get my health insurance benefits through my job and having to take off for my student teaching would mean I wouldn't be able to have that for that specific year. I am more immune sensitive and that makes me fearful of what that could look like.

Brooke Riess

Winona State University

Student teaching is the most important part about the schooling to become a teacher. It is how we learn the main part about being a teacher. I think that it is very important that student teachers devote all of their attention in to their student teaching, instead of having to worry about working in order to make rent and have groceries. Since student teaching is usually at the end of college, I know that I will have student loans and will be poor due to paying for college. I would prefer to completely focus on my student teaching so that I can become a good teacher. As of right now, I would need to work while student teaching. Student teaching is already a full-time job. It is unreasonable to assume that I would also need to have a part-time job. If I have to focus on having a part-time job while student teaching, it will make it a lot harder to make sure that I learn everything that I can while student teaching. It could potentially make student teaching waste.

Sidney Zavoral

University of Minnesota Duluth

Paid student teaching would help significantly, as I am always stressed about money due to working 40+ hours a week in the classroom. This is a full-time job. Teachers are needed, and this profession is dying due to the lack of resources. Teaching shapes future generations.

Melissa Thompson

Southwest Minnesota State University

As a single parent, working full-time at a school and going to college for my early childhood education degree, being able to be paid for student teaching would be extremely helpful and would impact my life in a positive way. It would allow me to continue on my journey to become a teacher without having the financial burden of not receiving income to care for my son, and not having to accrue debt in order to make a better life for my son and myself.

Sydney Farniok

Bemidji State University

Being paid during student teaching would change my life completely. I find that I am burnt out even further with the stress of taking a 3-4 month pay break from a job. Student Teaching in itself is a full-time job, we don't have the time (or energy) to pack up our bags and put on a uniform to go wait tables. Being paid during student teaching would lift a huge weight off of our shoulders and allow to be completely attentive to the tasks at hand!

Katlynn Gilliland

University of Minnesota Duluth

I have to work and complete my student teaching at the same time. Unless I work nights, I don't have time for work and my school work. It's really difficult to afford to live when I'm paying my own tuition in addition to living expenses. It's scary to think about my student debt as well as credit if I can't work while teaching.

Jamie

University of Minnesota Duluth Grad 2010 (currently an elementary teacher, not a college student)

I wouldn't have had the stress and struggle to stay above water.

When I was in college, I got pregnant my junior year. I went to classes until I had him in late November. When my son turned 9 months old, I started up my courses again part-time while working full-time between 3 group homes on the days I had no class and every weekend. After my son turned two, I returned to college courses full-time while still working full-time. Before he turned 2 1/2 years old, I was a single mom after discovering ongoing infidelity of his father. When my son turned 4, it came time for student teaching, and college students who worked had to prove they were serious about their student teaching and future profession by showing two paystubs "proving" they were not working more than 20 hours a week at their job. It was in fact recommended we not work at all due to three courses also being required alongside student teaching. I was a single mom of a 4 year old with a mortgage, daycare and preschool costs, and made just enough to get by but made too much for any assistance. For one month, I worked 20 hours a week to have paystubs "prove" my seriousness, and opened up a credit card to buy food, gas, and pay bills. I went back to working full-time, however took a significant pay cut due to needing to do sleepover nights instead of my typical weekday shifts. After that semester, I was in credit card debt of +\$4,000. After student teaching, I needed to have an additional job to help pay this new credit card bill. I paid the minimum monthly payment, which made no dent to my debt as it mostly just paid the interest. After 5 years, I got help from an outside agency to pay off the actual balance only and close the card account.

Andrew Chang

Augsburg University

Spending numerous hours as a full-time student teacher is a tremendous commitment. It is an investment of time and effort that takes away from being able to work and earn money to support our families and provide basic living needs. Essentially, student teaching is a full semester of working for free and living off of a loan, savings, and others, which is not guaranteed for many people. Paid student teaching would allow me to provide for my family and not rely on loans and others.

Neve Moore

University of Minnesota Duluth

I am a second year music education major and I am double majoring with vocal performance. Because of this second major, I will be in school for 4.5 years, with the final semester being my student teaching. I am worried about affording that last semester, because my scholarships end after 4 years. My family cannot afford to help me, and I will be unable to take on a job as I will be full time student teaching. If I were paid as a student teacher, I could afford my last semester of college and would not have to worry about my finances. It would be a huge relief for me and I could do my student teaching with significantly less stress

Daniel Schroeder

Minnesota State University Mankato

Paid student teaching would greatly benefit me not only in college but throughout the entirety of career. I am torn between having to financially support myself and investing my time and energy into my student teaching experience. I will only student teach once and the skills I will learn and experiences I will have may either make or break my entire career.

Hannah Olson

University of Minnesota Duluth

My program is a dual license of both special ed and elementary ed, this means I am student teaching for a whole year, which is a huge time commitment, and also means I won't be able to work for a year. This is a very stressful situation for a college student who pays for everything themselves. Having paid student teaching would take off the stress of not needing to work and give me more energy to focus on student teaching. Student teaching is also the equivalent to an internship for most other jobs which are almost always paid, therefore student teachers should be paid.

Delaney Spencer

CEHSP

I stress about my financial future everyday because of the unpaid student teaching. I am currently in block one and I am an RA on campus. Because of my time commitment in the classroom, to my classes and the hours of homework, and my unpaid RA job I cannot work. I have no time to work. The fact that the next two years will be the same way makes my anxiety get out of control. I cannot RA next year. I have to work 50-70 hour weeks in the summer to manage the cost of rent in Duluth because I cannot work while I am student teaching. Paid student teaching is the only fair option when you take away our time to even work.

Alexis

University of Minnesota Duluth

I work at a daycare and daycares are not open on weekends. Because of this, every day straight from student teaching I have to go work at the daycare until close so I can try and make some money. With paid student teaching I would have more time and money to get groceries, and energy for homework and preparing for the next day.

Soni Albright

Southwest Minnesota State University

I have four kids and returned to school for my MA in special education after serving in education as a classroom teacher and administrator for twenty-two years. I am currently doing both a graduate program and working full-time, and am extremely concerned about my practicum experience due to having to pause my career without pay in order to complete my program. A paid student teaching opportunity would take the pressure off and allow me to put my full energy into student teaching, instead of burning the candle at both ends to stay afloat.

Alyssa Stellar

University of Minnesota Duluth

Paid student teaching would not only impact the quality of my life, it would impact the quality of my students' lives. Without paid student teaching, I am expecting to spend 40 hours or more per week on teaching, curriculum, lesson/unit planning, and overall care for my students IN ADDITION to working a full-time night shift job to afford my costs of living (rent, groceries, gas, tuition, etc.). If my student teaching were to compensate me for my work, I would be capable of putting significantly more time toward my teaching, ensuring better quality for the students I work with during my student teaching semester AND the students I work with in my own classroom.

Megan Fanum

University of Minnesota Duluth

Paid student teaching would really make life a lot of easier if I would have been getting paid. The stress of not getting paid while working a full time job (student teaching) would have made my student teaching experience a lot more enjoyable and way less stressful.

Nichole Bueckers

Bemidji State University

Well being I am a mom of 4 kids and have to quit my job in order to do my student teaching it impacts my family big time. Having even a little bit of income weekly or bi-weekly would be amazing. I am having to find a job in the evenings and weekends to make up from the little income I get from being a paraprofessional. I understand that most of the students doing student teaching are younger than I am and don't have a mortgage, and other bills that they need to pay for, but I do feel that if you had a job before you did your student teaching you should be able to get some compensation while you are unable to work.

Kaitlyn Salmela

University of Minnesota Duluth

Student teaching is basically a full-time job that you do for free. In fact you have to pay tuition for the university you are attending, so it feels like paying to work. Being a college student is hard enough as it is to find time to work, on top of doing your school work and attending your classes. Being paid to student teach would allow me to make enough money to support my cost of living without having to overwork myself.

Meghan Lee

Bemidji State University

This would make a HUGE difference for me! I already had to put off college due to financial hardships, and have been very nervous how I am going to get by during student teaching. I have been worried that I will not be able to student teach if I can't get some form of income in order to complete that last part of my degree.

Amanda Brown

Minnesota State Mankato

It would impact us so much more than anyone realizes. I could actually afford to live instead of praying that I can pay bills.

Bennett Scheuring

University of Minnesota Duluth

I would be able to put my efforts toward the teaching and homework for my classes instead of trying to manage a job and all these things as well. This would also allow me to have personal time and improve my own mental health.

Amber Engesser

Southwest Minnesota State University

I am a single parent, and sole provider for myself and my 6 year old son. I am currently attending the Para-SPED program at Southwest Minnesota State University, and I will be completing my student teaching hours next year. The way the Para-SPED program works, is that students can work half the day as a paraprofessional, and the other half of the day will be for us to complete our student teaching hours. Because, we will only be student teaching half the day, we will spend a whole school year completing this process. That means for a whole school year, I will only get paid half the day. The closer this process gets, the more anxious I become. I am very concerned with how I will be able to provide for my son and myself with only half of my income. I also live in a very rural area, so finding work during the summer is extremely difficult. Paraprofessionals in my area do not get paid during the summer. The opportunity for us to collect unemployment during the summer helped a little bit this past summer, but I still struggled financially until I started getting a full paycheck at work. I cannot imagine what my expenses will look like after a summer with half of my income from unemployment, and then a whole school year with only half my income. I have even considered dropping out of the program, because I am so worried about how I will be able to pay for my house, my car, my insurance, and food for myself and my son. This paid student teaching opportunity would change my life, and take a lot of anxiety off my chest. It will give me the opportunity to make mine and my son's lives better, without first making it harder.

Moira Willson

University of Minnesota

It would hugely impact my life. I am currently living off of my savings and what my parents can do to help. This means that I will be going into my teaching career with no savings and living paycheck to paycheck. Due to the high demand of my program getting a job is not really an option at the moment.

Adrianne Covey

University of Minnesota Duluth

I think that paid student teaching would be beneficial as student teaching takes a lot of time out of the day for students to go to work in order to make money to pay for college and housing. Student Teaching is doing a job/service that takes a lot of time not only in the classroom but outside of it as well. Student teachers should be reimbursed for the hard work that they put in.

Eliot Kies

Winona State University

I would be able to work as much as I am learning. Being in student teaching does not allow a student teacher to have any sort of work life outside of school. It takes up the same amount of time as licensed teachers and nobody expects licensed teachers to hold a second job.

Casey Burnette

Winona State University

I would not have to worry about working a job while student teaching full time.

Tallulah Houser

University of Minnesota Duluth

I come from a family that is not very wealthy, meaning I HAVE to work, but sometimes it's really hard to do that with class and everything.

Ellie Sprouls

Winona State University

My parents have moved out of state so I can't live at home while student teaching like a lot of my peers. I will have to pay rent, utilities, buy groceries, gas, etc. Since student teaching is like a full-time job, I'm left with very little time to work outside of student teaching and will have to rely on savings for 12 weeks while completing my placement. If I were to be paid during student teaching I would have more time to focus on lesson planning and reflecting outside of school hours instead of working a job. My financial stress would be lifted a lot and I would be so grateful.

Cierra DeGreef

Southwest Minnesota State University

I am a 26 year old mother of two who works full-time while going to school. If student teaching was paid for that would take a huge load off my shoulders. I will not be doing student teaching for about another year or two, but I am already worried about how I will pay my bills while student teaching.

Gracie Schad

University of Minnesota Duluth

It would pay for the resources needed to fulfill lesson plans and interaction between students.

Grace Haasch

University of Minnesota Duluth

Receiving reasonable compensation for student teaching would allow me to pay my rent without having to work 12 hour shifts every single weekend to make ends meet. In turn, this would make me a better educator, as I can devote all of my energy to my students instead of devoting a significant portion of my energy to affording the cost of living.

Eve Strasser

St. Olaf College

Getting paid to student teach would be a dream come true for me. I have to live off campus when student teaching and I'll be forced to juggle rent, utilities, gas, and food along with student loans. It would be an incredible relief to not feel forced to pick up another job on top of teaching and technically being a full-time student.

Sarah Marie Adrion

University of Minnesota Duluth

I wouldn't have to work an additional 30+ hours a week while student teaching. I would be able to better focus on creating lessons, my teaching, and EdTPA. I would be significantly less stressed and overwhelmed, and probably less anxious as well.

Katelyn Neururer

Bemidji State University

It would make a huge difference because we are putting all the effort and giving it our all just like a normal job. We can't work another job when student teaching because we are there the normal hours of work. Yes, you could get a serving job after student teaching but at that time you are already exhausted from waking up early and managing a whole classroom full of students. It would be helpful since we are paying for student teaching and some of us have to still pay off our loans from school in general but we have to work and student teach and pay all that off after we become a teacher. We should be getting paid because we are doing the work of a normal teacher and it isn't fair that other internships get paid and we don't when we are so important to have. We are shaping students futures and they need teachers!

Kaitlin Wake

University of Minnesota Duluth

It would benefit not only my mental health but financial health. In a world where finances are rising we need to ensure ways to combat the rising need for money. Being paid as a student teacher not only allows me to put all my focus into the educational wellbeing of myself but my students as well. It also allows us to build a foundation for the future when it comes to paying college debt, housing, and the most important FOOD!

Anna Kochevar

University of Minnesota Duluth

The ability to not be financially destroyed upon graduating while also paying off student loans and not making a very large wage.

Rilee Michaelson

Bemidji State University

Being paid while student teaching would be a burden lifted off of my shoulders for there is endless hours I would be putting into my future. Student teaching does not allow for complete flexibility if wanting to have a side job after school hours, for the time dedicated between the 12 weeks of student teaching will be dedicated to completing my EdTPA at my highest potential. Like anything else I do, I would want to give my 100% focus and commitment to student teaching while having no other distractions!

Grace

University of Minnesota Twin Cities

I would be able to commit more time and energy to my assignments and classroom. Instead of spending my weekends working, I would be able to spend that time working on assignments, preparing for class and recharging for the next week.

Margrethe Hawthorne

Concordia College- Moorhead

I would not have to be stressed about my ability to pay bills and groceries while also having to balance my student teaching responsibilities with trying to work.

Angela Berg

Bemidji State University

Paid student teaching would allow my family to not be strapped for the duration of the student teaching. It would also allow me to not have to take on a night job while student teaching, which will allow me to fully focus on my experiences and training as a student teacher.

Kortney Carlson

University of Minnesota Duluth

It would help a lot. I currently am working 2 full-time jobs (student teaching being one of them) and am still not being able to pay rent and I have barely enough to get gas which I need to get to the school I was assigned too. If I was able to work for money a lot of my stress would be eased. Especially with the prices of everything raising.

Thomas Coombe

Bethel University

It's would take a lot of stress out of my life. I get worried about finances a lot. College is expensive. So on top of the full-time job of student teaching I will need to have another job which wouldn't allow me to do my best in the class room. Paying me would allow me to put forward a higher focus on student teaching.

Krista Kamman

Bemidji State University

Right now I work two to three part-time jobs so I'm available to do my student teaching hours. I substitute teach at two districts and I waitress. A paid position would help so much because I wouldn't be able to substitute teach during those months. I would like to get as much experience as I can from experienced teachers and this is why I have not taken another long-term substitute job or paid permanent position.

Devyn M. Triebenbach

University of Minnesota Duluth

It would allow me to fully invest my time and energy into something that requires it. Having to work, go to school, and then find time in the classroom feels and is almost impossible. We as a state are doing a tremendous disservice not only to our student teachers, but our current secondary students as well.

Evelyn

Augsburg University

I would have to take a semester off to work. It is essentially a full-time job without pay. I would have to find ways to pay for my school and housing without any income and no time to work outside of my student teaching hours.

Elizabeth Oster

Augsburg University

If I were to get paid when I start student teaching, the money that I would get would go towards housing and food and other bills. Without it I will have to work a second job in order to just live comfortably and continue to pay if my student loans.

Kylie Berg

Augsburg University

It would impact me immensely because I have to pay for 3+ years of college plus basic necessities and it's only becoming more expensive to live in this country. I want to be able to afford a car plus gas and payments because reliable transportation is very important for completing everything I need to complete as a college student.

Shaily

University of Minnesota Duluth

Paying student teachers can have several benefits. Firstly, it would attract more talented individuals to pursue a career in teaching. Secondly, it would provide financial support to us student teachers as we often face financial challenges. For me personally, not being able to have any sort of income for 3-4 months is going to be a struggle while I'm trying to pay for school, gas money, food, etc. Educators in general are already underpaid so having a bit of income during our practice teaching would be greatly appreciated plus, the 8-10 hours we are teaching a day, come from lesson plans created by us which are time consuming and can be a challenge at times. This would help us focus more on our studies and become better educators. Additionally, paying student teachers would increase the value and recognition of our work, motivating us to perform at our best. It could also lead to a more diverse pool of student teachers, as it would make teaching a viable option for individuals from different socioeconomic backgrounds. Overall, paying student teachers would contribute to the improvement of education by attracting and supporting passionate and dedicated future educators.

Annabelle lundberg

University of Minnesota Duluth

Paid student teaching would majorly impact my life. It is very hard to do student teaching on top of homework, a job, buying gas and groceries, and having a social life. It is very hard to make money when I am in the classroom everyday for majority of the day. Having paid student teaching would be super helpful to me and my finances.

Eliza Welscher

Winona State University

Paid Student Teaching would impact my life because we aren't allowed to work during student teaching and if you get placed far away, how will you afford gas? It also impacts our ability to work - how can we pay our bills? I think it would help with income. Even if it isn't too much it would help give us enough income to help pay for bills.

Becca Green

University of Minnesota Duluth

This would impact me because I wouldn't feel like I'm drowning in my workload. Trying to balance student teaching with a job is so hard because you can only work a night job. I get very limited hours because all of my hours are spent in the school. It is hard to make money and pay bills considering my hours are so low. This would benefit me because I wouldn't feel as pressured to work as many night hours and it would take off some workload.

Tyler Clark

Concordia College Moorhead

Not having to maintain a job on top of working 40 hours a week would allow me to fully devote myself to learning the craft of teaching. Even while maintaining a part-time job while student teaching, I am unable to pay rent and buy groceries without external assistance. Paid student teaching would allow more general well-being!

Riley Opalinski

University of Minnesota Duluth

I would be able to afford to pay for personal transportation and more purchases beyond the necessities of food and rent.

Molly Jensen

University of Minnesota Twin Cities

If I was able to be paid for student teaching, I would not have had to take as much I did in student loans. I also would have been able to afford to live on my own, which I really wanted to do as I am in grad school/student teaching at the same time. Since it was so expensive to pay for schooling and I am not paid for student teaching, I had to live at home in order to save money. I also do not have any time to be able to work another job to make money as I am student teaching and taking classes for grad school at the same time. I do not have any sort of money income right now so all the money I have saved up is being used to pay for what I can with school, parking at school, and other bills such as my car payment that I have to pay for throughout the year.

Isabelle Leutbounshou

Winona State University

It would help me prepare for the future and find good interviews. It will help me financially through school and help pay for house bills. It has many more benefits like getting more resources for field experiences and lessons.

Amber Meether

Winona State University, Rochester Online

It would help my family pay for the necessary childcare that I need in order to finish my student teaching.

Paige Reinertson

University of Minnesota Duluth

Paid student teaching would allow me to better provide for my own life without an extra job. Student teaching will not provide me with time outside to get another job onto of all the other life commitments I have. Being paid during student teaching would help solve many of my financial issues as a college student.

Alexis Frakie

University of Minnesota Duluth

Paying student teachers would reduce stress financially. Balancing student teaching, a part-time job, and school is extremely difficult.

Megan Bistodeau

University of Minnesota Duluth

I would not have to work another job while student teaching. I do not have a weekend to prep, as I have to work a job over the weekend. Therefore, I am run down and get sick easily.

Emma DeWolf

University of Minnesota Duluth

It would allow me to fully immerse myself in the student teaching experience without the financial stress and burden. I would not have to be working from 7:00AM-9:00PM.

Camden Pollard

University of Minnesota Duluth

I myself am a commuter and I pay a lot in gas as it is. Due to my being placed 45 minutes away from my house, I am having to pay even more in gas now. On top of this, I am unable to work due to the student teaching hours. Getting paid for student teaching would greatly positively impact my experience by helping lessen the financial burden and I would be able to better immerse myself in my teaching experience.

Soren Sjerven

University of Minnesota Duluth

It would make it easier for me to afford to live while teaching.

Kayla Star

Winona State University

Paid student teaching would impact me because it could help me to focus on student teaching without worrying. If student teaching was paid, I wouldn't have to work a job right after the school day was over. I would be able to focus on the lessons I need to prep for. It can impact where I could ultimately be placed for student teaching. I will have to student teach back home and live with my parents since student teaching isn't paid. If it was, I could choose a place that would be farther away.

Gracie Kupietz

Winona State University

I would not have the added stressor of making sure i have money for gas, food, etc. Student teaching is stressful enough alone so not having extra stressors would help me enjoy my student teaching time more.

Isaac Ille

Winona State University

I will be able to pay for some of the tuition it is costing me.

Brooke Flaata

University of Minnesota Duluth

Paid student teaching would impact the lives of many, including my own. Having the generosity of being paid during student teaching can positively benefit finances for us college students. It can help pay monthly finances and help college students stay up on their feet while some of us are not able to do our jobs for a whole month. Not being able to work for a whole month is at least two paychecks worth nothing because we are unable to work our jobs. Being paid while student teaching can be super beneficial for gas money since we are already paying out of our pocket for gas when some of us are farther away from the city of Duluth.

Brynne Meyer

Winona State University

I would be able to be on my own once I get a job. I am currently struggling financially because of loans and both my parents lost their jobs in the last year.

Madison

Winona State University

Paid student teaching would help me be successful in my first year of teaching. I could use the earnings that I make during student teaching to get things for my first year classroom.

Isabella Olson

Augsburg University

It would make life less stressful and help me focus on teaching rather than worrying about basic necessities

Cathrine Bastin

Lake Superior College

Paid student teaching would impact my life because I am a student in college who is learning how to be a teacher and if I was getting paid it would help me want to go into class on days that I am not feeling up for it, with being paid I would be able to use that money towards my classes and living expenses that I'd need as being a college student.

Kayla

Bemidji State University

It would allow me to pay my bills and take care of my child as a single mother.

Kira Borgman

Cooperating Teacher

Paid student teaching would've been a game-changer for me. Working two full-time jobs, one for free, was extremely difficult.

Karlie Ray

Bemidji State University

Getting paid for student teaching would have a great impact on my life. If I got paid for my student teaching I would be able to afford paying my house payment, bills and groceries, I wouldn't need to find a job to work outside of classroom hours. I would have more time to focus on school work and completing student teaching thoroughly.

Cali Green

Bemidji State University

This would impact my life because I live in my own home, paying all my own bills. This will be a struggle which makes a person not want to go through with teaching. Having it paid would relieve so much hardship in my financial situation!

Anna Schmitt

University of Minnesota Duluth

Paid student teaching would impact my life immensely. I try to work 30-ish hours a week to be able to pay for my schooling to be able to student teach. If student teaching was paid for I would be able to focus on my studies and school more than worrying about work to get me by.

Mckenzie

Augsburg University

I have bills to pay, animals to feed, kids to feed, and in this stage of inflation I pay \$300+ for a week's worth of groceries for my family. Yes I know that this is apart of it, but it doesn't have to be. I'm questioning continuing this career because I will be 3/4 months without a paycheck. Even if it were minimum wage that's something. How am I supposed to pay for gas to get to the school I'm student teaching at \$3+ per gallon of gas without any income. I'm afraid I will lose my house, my family will not go hungry but they will be without the nutrients they need. Notice that the healthy foods are more expensive than the processed? They won't get the vitamins they need.

Amilia

University of Minnesota Twin Cities

I would be able to focus on my studies instead of trying to split my time between full-time teaching and part-time working. I wouldn't have to take out as many loans.

Doyle Belisle

Minnesota State University Mankato

I have had to cut my hours at work in order to fulfill the needs of student teaching and intern budgeting and normal living expenses have been extremely difficult

Geli Stenson

University of Minnesota Duluth

I am not yet a student teacher, but in the near future I will be. Student teachers deserve pay, even if it would be minimum wage. We are expected to work a full-time job, but not get paid for it. Expenses for life are extensive, and having to take on another job on top of the full-time student teaching job is ridiculous. Getting paid to student teach would be fantastic for any and all aspiring educators.

Samaa

University of Minnesota Twin Cities

It would benefit me as I need means to begin paying off my student debt that I accumulated during my undergraduate years. It would also be beneficial if I am paid so that I am able to help pay the bills in my home.

Brianna McKinnon

University of Minnesota

Paid student Teaching would allow me to focus on student teaching instead of worry about finances. It would also provide me some time to work on lesson plans and organizing, and learn more about education before going into the field. Unpaid student teaching causes students to struggle to find housing and live securely while teaching, causing stress that could lower their performance in the classroom.

Madison Meyer

Winona State University

Being paid as a student teacher will give me the opportunity to focus on my career as a teacher. If student teaching is still unpaid, I will have to get an additional job that I could only work at night.

Lila Ford

University of Minnesota Duluth

I would be able to sustain a healthy, realistic life style as I student teach.

Grace Rieland

University of Minnesota Duluth

This would impact my life because currently I am working two jobs, have two placements, and I am taking 19 credits. I'm still not making enough money to pay my rent and groceries and I have taken out another loan just so that I can live comfortably.

Taylor Morrissey

University of Minnesota Duluth

Getting paid for student teaching would impact my life greatly. Currently I have picked up an extra part-time job to make more money now, to account for not being able to work much during student teaching. The hours we are required to spend at the school, makes it very hard to have another job, or a job that will allow us to make enough money. Getting paid to student teach would allow for the student teachers to put all of their time and effort into student teaching, making content, preparing, and learning. Right now, we have to save a decent amount of time for our jobs outside of schools so we can afford our rent and food.

Jayna

University of Minnesota Duluth

I would be able to pay my rent. I would be able to afford basic necessities— groceries, gas, therapy. My mental health and my overall well-being would improve. Even just a gas stipend would've helped!!

Paige Klingfus

Winona State University

Would allow income while student teaching, otherwise I will have to find odd end jobs to make money.

Bryah Moore

Winona State University

I have bills and going 5 months without being paid is going to affect me financially because there is basically no time to have a job. If there is you are usually tired by the time you are done working with children.

Gabriel Bartlett

Winona State University

I am having to take an extra year of college to complete my degree and I only have enough saved to complete my 4 years. If I get paid while student teaching, I would be able to not only afford my 5th year but begin saving for my masters program.

Morgan Bjorklund

Winona State University

If I was getting paid I would have more time to spend lesson planning, working on my EdTPA, and spend time with friends and family. I will have to work a part-time job in order to afford bills, rent, groceries, gas, and any supplies needed for student teaching. I will likely be overwhelmed and burnt out during student teaching due to having to work and planning and writing my EdTPA.

Kacie

Winona State University

It would help tremendously, I won't be able to work at my current job at all. This would help me stay financially stable as I am working through student teaching and looking for teaching jobs.

Rayna Bushey

Winona State University

Paid student teaching would impact my life by allowing me to not be worried about paying my bills. Four months of no pay while the bills keep needing to be paid is ridiculous.

Katie Deshaw

Winona State University

It would allow me to continue to live on my own in Winona rather than relocating back home with my parents.

Sam H.

Winona State University

Paid student teaching would mean that I could place all of my attention onto student teaching instead of doing this and working while doing it. This would create less stress and create a sense of what teaching is actually like. It is difficult to worry about how to pay bills and tuition so that you can go practice teaching before getting a job.

Caylyn Kobilka

Winona State University

Being paid for student teaching would be extremely beneficial!!! I'd be learning how to become a great teacher for the future as well as getting paid doing it! I'd use the money towards paying off my semester.

Angel

University of Minnesota Duluth

Student teaching takes a lot of energy and you're helping out a lot, just as much as a paid employee when you're just in field placements and then when student teaching you're working a full-time job without getting paid. It makes it feel like that final step is simply not worth it financially when you pay to work a full-time job and don't have the time or energy to work a paying job.

Sarah

Winona State University

Paid student teaching would impact my life in so many positive ways. I don't come from a wealthy family and am paying for college on my own. Not being able to have a second job will cause me to not be able to make money and provide for myself. If student teaching was paid I would be able to provide for myself and not have to worry about my financial situation.

Gracie Rouland

University of Minnesota Crookston

Paid student teaching would benefit my overall experience in the classroom as I would be able to afford my own living expenses along with the other fees and expenses that come with being a teacher.

Maxim Davis

Winona State University

I would be able to pay for basic necessities and be able to teach to the best of my ability knowing that I can put food on my plate at night.

Cassidy McGaughey

St. Cloud State University

I wouldn't have to worry about the financial burden student teaching brings as a huge time commitment. I'm very nervous about being able to work my part-time job on weekends to pay my living expenses while also keeping up with the demands of being in the classroom.

Reise Hayes

Augsburg University

I would be able to get to and from my placement. I do not have a full-time job at the moment and a full-time job would be hard with student teaching.

Sidney

University of Minnesota Duluth

Being paid for student teaching would allow me to put all of my focus in learning and planning for my classroom. It would allow me to give all my time and energy to my class as well as to the important experience of practice before having a classroom of my own. As of now, juggling full-time teaching hours while still having to work almost full-time hours 7 days a week outside of practicum hours, it is too much to balance while still having time outside of student teaching to prep for classes, prep for interviews of future potential schools for work, personal time, etc. Being paid while student teaching would allow for more time to feel less booked up and hopefully enjoy my time much more interacting with students.

Abby Butenhoff

Winona State University

It would help me be less stressed as I have loans and bills of my own to pay for as student teaching is basically working a full-time job for no pay and I will not be able to work as much as I usually can and I need to be able to make money to pay such bills and loans without over stretching myself thin and breaking down mentally.

Madeleine Seel

University of Minnesota Duluth

This would impact my life because when I am in the classroom, I am teaching just like a teacher who has obtained a license. We have a responsibility to keep students safe, making sure students are understanding the content being taught, attending stage meetings, attending parent-teacher conferences, etc. We are instructed to get to school by the required time the regular teacher is instructed to be in school until the time they are able to leave school.

This would also impact my life and be less stressful when trying to plan my work schedule and school schedule. Since I am not being paid for the work I am doing as a student teacher I have to work overtime mentally, emotionally, and physically to take care of myself, complete school work deadlines (on a 15-17 credit workload), work a little over 15 -30 hours, give my time to my family company, and participate in a social life. This is a lot for one human being to take on. Most of us work a part-time job to pay for living, groceries, and gas. If we were to be paid while student teaching under the contracted hours that we are already there for, it would give us more time to take care of ourselves and complete our homework deadlines.

Brieyanna

Minnesota State University Mankato

I have had to move home because I am unable to make it on my own and student teach without being paid. Even while still living at home, I am having to be careful with money, knowing my student teaching is coming up and it will not be paid. If student teaching was paid I would be able to put my full attention to student teaching, and not have to have an entire other job while working student teaching for free. Getting paid to student teach would impact my life tremendously.

Ashley Hensel

Bemidji State University

It would make my life so much easier because I have 4 kids and I have been stressing about how I will be able to make ends meet during the time I have to student teach.

Bridget Trutwin

Bemidji State University

Getting paid to student teach would impact my life tremendously as I have 3 children to support, I also have bills to pay. How am I supposed to pay for college if I am not earning wages? This would not only benefit me and my family, but it would take away one less stressor.

Emma Stertz

College of Saint Scholastica

Paid student teaching would relieve a lot of financial stress from my life. I am currently working very few hours because I have to devoted my time to being a full-time teacher but am paying for it.

Allison Fix

University of Minnesota Duluth

I currently work two jobs to be able to keep up with my bills and tuition and doing student teaching will at least take away one job or both while being a full-time student. Being paid for student teaching will help me not have to worry about making sure I know where my next meal will come from and making sure I can pay my rent to be able to continue going to the university.

Jodi Brunner

Bemidji State University

I will not be getting paid for an entire semester, and I will have to take a several month absence at my current job. I do not have any kids, but I have four pets, a house, utilities, gas, bills, and groceries to worry about helping pay for each month. Not being paid will significantly impact our current living situation where we rely on my income for everyday life things.

Emily

Bemidji State University

Paid student teaching would mean that I wouldn't have to rely on someone else to support me during that time. Paid student teaching would allow me to not feel stressed about future and to feel reassured that I can still live my life without having to take out a loan or work two jobs while student teaching.

Trey Winkels

Minnesota State University Mankato

As I progress into my Elementary Education program and the student teaching picks up, paid student teaching would give me the opportunity to afford gas to and from my placement. Along with that, during weeks of student teaching 40+ hours a week on top of assignments for my college level courses, I am not able to work which has a severe impact on my ability to continue paying my bills without a heavy load of stress added onto my already stressful workload.

In the end, through paid student teaching I would be relieved of the added stress to pay my bills on time and be given the opportunity to focus my attention on planning ahead for student teaching as well as my assignments in the classroom.

Ellise Hadley

Bemidji State University

Currently, I am participating in the online DLiTE program through BSU to gain my k-6 teaching license, along with a pre-primary endorsement. I am fortunate enough to have Thursdays off from work (I am a preschool assistant teacher), to volunteer in my mentor teachers classroom for field experience. Having paid student teaching would allow me to continue my education without the fear of not being able to sustain a safe and secure living. With inflation, it is important to have enough money for groceries, gas, and living bills. Lately, all of my paychecks go to the expenses related to survival. I am very scared to enter student teaching without pay, while also having to lower my hours at work, and still having to make the same payments. This thought process stresses me out!

Katie Pearson

Bemidji State University

I would be spending my days focused on the classroom and my student teaching life, and not trying to work two jobs to just get by. The stress-load of doing that would take away the amount of learning to be had by the student teacher, causing exhaustion and loss of a normal-feeling first year teacher experience... where you can at least get regular sleep, typically.

Kora Spangler

Augsburg University

I would be able to lessen my hours at my other job, and be able to pay for my gas to drive to the school I'm student teaching at.

Megan Holshouser

Bemidji State University

Having to work full-time without pay is terrible. Having paid student teaching would allow for me to support my family. Having to not work and not be paid is a huge financial burden. We use our gas money to get there and pay school tuition and teach for free for twelve weeks.

Rebecca Davidson

Bemidji State University

Currently I am a full-time working adult with 2 children, so you can see how not getting paid for 12 weeks would greatly impact my life. I will also need to be without health insurance after a certain amount of days not working and taking the Leave of Absence with my current work. I would appreciate minimum wage at least.

McKenzie Mickolich

Bemidji State University

Student teaching would give me the ability to pay for my monthly bills, groceries, and my housing. With unpaid student teaching I would have to find a night shift job and would not be able to prioritize my final semester of school.

Haley Linder

Bemidji State University

Paid student teaching can help me with many things. I recently had my first child and with not getting paid for 13 weeks could be a challenge. If student teaching was to be paid for I would feel a lot more confident in doing so.

Mai Lee Yang

Augsburg University

Paid Student Teaching would 100% help me have extra time afterschool to focus on completing unfinished tasks instead of working until late at night. It will help give me time to re-collect myself from mental health, my personal life and inside the classroom. I don't have to worry about not having enough time, and not having money at the same time to pay my bills and put food on my table. Paid Student Teaching would 100% help me improve my teaching development during school hours and outside from the learning space.

Jocelynn Geib

Winona State University

Being able to afford to live while also being a teacher. Student Teaching is a full-time job, just like some internships so it should be treated as such.

Samantha Bolland

Winona State University

Student teaching is a full-time job. Paid student teaching would allow me to not have to get another job on top of full-time student teaching. The stress levels would go down tremendously and it would actually allow for students to have the time to make good lesson plans.

Laura Bullard

Winona State University

It would help me a ton in a financial aspect. I would be able to solely focus on student teaching and give my all to learning while I am spending the semester in a classroom, without worrying about finding a job on top of being in the classroom all day.

Kiearra Wilmes

College of Saint Benedict

As a future student teacher, this would greatly benefit me. If you think about it, this is our "internship." More than likely, internships are paid positions. This is the equivalent of it.

Sammi Records

University of Minnesota Duluth

If student teachers were paid, I wouldn't have to work extra jobs to get by. I won't have to have other jobs alongside a unpaid 9-5

Rachel Bringle

Concordia College Moorhead

I wouldn't have to sacrifice my nights to work, just to support myself and make my already struggling family pay for my expenses just to live.

Ross Motter

Concordia College Moorhead

It would give me the opportunity to be more financially secure and give me the opportunity to start gearing up to teach the following year!

Layla Hahn

Concordia College Moorhead

I will be student teaching in 1.5-2 years and I think student teachers should be paid because they are learning how to do the work of a teacher successfully. They are hands on creating lessons, interacting with students, and are full-time students which leaves little time to work elsewhere to pay for college and loans.

Chantelle Keena

I'm no longer in college

I was in college pursuing a degree in education and I ultimately went into a different profession partially because I could not afford to do student teaching.

Isabel Aylin

Concordia College Moorhead

My friends would be paid for their hard work and time and wouldn't have to scrape by financially in their last semester of college.

Jackson Sirek

Augsburg University

Paid student teaching would really benefit me in the future, because it will give me some sort of income to work towards a future job in education. As we have continued to progress, unpaid internships have started to become irrelevant in almost all areas of expertise except for teaching.

Mellisa Larson

University of Minnesota Duluth

As an aspiring educator who will student teach next fall (2024), I can already feel the financial stress as me and my classmates struggle to keep up with the constant bills for gas, rent, groceries, and more! I do not have financial support from my parents. I rely solely on the income that I and my partner, also a full-time college student, make. Financial support for student teachers means that I can truly focus on my students and on becoming the best educator I can be! I urge you to recognize the value of Minnesota's student teachers and show us that you believe in the future of education, by supporting student teachers!

Caitlin Efta

University of Minnesota Duluth

I am a senior currently working through my first of two student teaching placements. When I was preparing for my student teaching last semester, I was told to not have a job during my time in the classroom and to just take out extra loans to cover any costs I would need. Unfortunately, I do not have the luxury of taking out extra loans, I already have a hard enough time taking out the exact amount I need for my tuition. So, I planned to apply for every available scholarship and grant I could. Little did I know that when I did receive a grant to help with schooling costs it would take away one of my FAFSA loans. Meaning I could not work less often as I had hoped. Now, I am a full-time student teacher. I work three out of five days of the school week as well as most weekends. When I work during the school week, I go straight from school to work and work for another 8 hours. Making that day over 17 hours of just work and even more time than that being awake. I work so I am able to make ends meet. Due to the amount of time I need to work, I miss out on time I could be spending with my family and I lose the opportunity to have more thorough lesson plan write ups and time spent planning for my placement.