

# MTEA Position on Mayoral Takeover

**Mayoral takeover of MPS is not a solution to the challenges of our district and city. The MTEA is categorically opposed to mayoral takeover. MTEA leaders and members will actively engage the community in:**

- **Opposing mayoral takeover.**
- **Supporting steps that will strengthen the city's public schools.**

## **Three Main Reasons for Opposition**

### **1. Mayoral takeover will not change the fundamental reform issue: the state's method of funding public schools.**

The state law, which largely determines the MPS budget, does not provide the resources essential for a quality education of the district's students. Year after year, the structural budget deficit has resulted in more and deeper cuts depriving MPS students of the educational opportunities that wealthy districts provide.

MPS schools desperately need more resources to provide the essential elements of quality education, such as:

- Class size maximums to enable age-appropriate instruction and individual attention.
- Modern technologies and curriculum.
- Preparation time for all teachers
- Conditions that attract and retain highly qualified, teachers and support staff.
- Safe environments for students and staff.
- Art, music, physical education, guidance, library, and other services and support students need.

### **2. More parent, community, and educator engagement is needed - not less.**

Mayoral takeover would mean that the leadership and direction for the city's public schools would be taken from accessible school board members, elected from the eight geographic districts of MPS. Instead, the power would reside in the hands of one individual - the mayor. The office of mayor is responsible for several areas critical to Milwaukee. Education would be an add-on that would compete with other priorities. No mayor could be as accessible on education issues as nine elected representatives whose sole responsibility is policy-making for the city's public schools.

Meaningful reform requires a transformative partnership among parents, the broader community, and educators. The district's educators are the experts who understand what is needed to improve student achievement; educators want to implement reforms that can make a difference in the classroom.

Mayoral takeover is not reform. It's a false promise, similar to the voucher solution, which will again take MPS in the wrong direction.

### **3. The right of residents to elect school board members should be maintained and strengthened, especially in Milwaukee.**

Throughout the state and most of our nation, the right to vote for school board members is the most meaningful and direct opportunity to participate in our democracy. No citizen should lose this basic right. To single out an urban district with a majority minority population would be a devastating and discriminatory step backward - especially for a state with a strong progressive tradition.