

Joining the movement for full funding – sample script

Thanks for meeting with me today, I wanted to speak with you about fully funding education.

Public education has been underfunded for decades. As a result, Minnesota has one of the worst counselor-to-student ratios in the country, has the widest achievement gap of all states, is continually increasing class sizes, and the underfunding of special education is causing an increased burden on what little resources our schools already have.

What have your experiences been with our schools being underfunded?

Actively listen to your community contact.

Ask follow-up questions as needed.

Agree, validate or redirect their response.

In my experience, underfunding our schools has had a horribly adverse effect on our students and my colleagues.

Share your story. Talk about why underfunding has been harmful to your students, your colleagues and you.

If you need help coming up with your story, reach out to your field staff or political organizer.

I wanted to share with you a few statistics of how detrimental underfunding public education is:

- Our real per-pupil state aid to Minnesota school districts has declined since 2003. In inflation adjusted dollars, 93 percent of all 330 Minnesota school districts receive less aid per pupil today than in 2003.
- In more than 97 percent of all districts, school property tax levies are higher today than in 2003.
- Data from 2018 shows that in the time between 2003 and 2018, total real per-pupil state aid declined by \$2,063, or 18.2 percent.

This is unacceptable, and must be changed. In order to change this, we must vote and pressure legislators to pass legislation to fully fund our schools.

You can be more specific and tell them where your legislators stand on the issue of fully funding schools.

Will you commit to vote in 2020 and join educators in the movement to fully fund public education?

Have community member complete the commitment card.

If they do not want to commit, ask them what is holding them back from making the commitment.

Continue the conversation, and offer to provide additional information as needed.

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FOR FULL FUNDING OUR STUDENTS DESERVE
FOR WELCOMING SCHOOLS FOR EVERYONE

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