Education funding

1. Education Minnesota believes the solution to closing the state’s racial opportunity gaps must include fully and equitably funding public education, from preschool to postsecondary institutions. There’s widespread agreement the full-funding agenda will require several billion dollars in new education investments. Please indicate your support or opposition to the following components of our full-funding agenda.

*Inflation:* Reverse Minnesota’s perpetual underfunding of education by significantly increasing the per-pupil funding formula and tying it to inflation.

☐ Yes  ☐ No

*SPED cross subsidy:* The state must also fully fund its portion of special education costs instead of relying on school districts to pay for them.

☐ Yes  ☐ No

*EL cross subsidy:* Fully fund the costs districts pay to provide quality English learner programs and instruction.

☐ Yes  ☐ No

*Lower class sizes:* Lower class sizes so teachers can give students more of the individual attention they need and deserve.

☐ Yes  ☐ No

*Full-service community schools:* Expand access to full-service community schools across the state.

☐ Yes  ☐ No

*Universal pre-K:* Provide universal half-day pre-K taught by licensed teachers, so all children are ready for kindergarten.

☐ Yes  ☐ No
Teachers of color: Fund programs to increase the number of teachers of color significantly so teachers providing instruction better reflect the students in our classrooms.

☐ Yes  ☐ No

Student support: Provide additional resources for school districts to hire more student support staff, including counselors, social workers, psychologists, nurses and other job classifications.

☐ Yes  ☐ No

TDE/Q Comp: Fully fund the 2011 Teacher Development and Evaluation law, an unfunded state mandate, to ensure teacher quality and lift the cap on the Q Comp program.

☐ Yes  ☐ No

Professional development: Provide professional development to all staff around cultural competency and trauma-responsive classrooms with aims of closing the discipline disparity gap.

☐ Yes  ☐ No

ESP living wage: Ensure all education support professionals earn a living wage of at least $20 an hour.

☐ Yes  ☐ No

Teacher compensation and benefits: Increase teacher compensation to provide competitive salaries and benefits to recruit and retain teachers.

☐ Yes  ☐ No

Health care for all school employees: Make health insurance more affordable, fair and predictable for educators and school employees so they stay in the profession.

☐ Yes  ☐ No

Education debt relief: Provide debt relief to retain teachers so they can afford to stay in the classroom.

☐ Yes  ☐ No

Higher education: Renew Minnesota’s commitment to invest in the state’s future by fully funding public higher education in Minnesota.

☐ Yes  ☐ No
**Taxes/revenue**

2. As Minnesotans, we know that when it comes to contributing, everyone means everyone, no exceptions. Joining together, we can restore fairness to our tax code by raising revenue from the largest corporations and wealthiest 1 percent of residents to ensure Minnesota students have the resources they need to live successful lives. Do you support raising billions of dollars in new revenue from the wealthiest Minnesotans and largest corporations?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

3. Education Minnesota believes in restoring equity to the state tax code by raising revenue from the very wealthiest Minnesotans and the largest corporations. Calling on your experience and expertise, are there other progressive, equitable ways to raise revenue that you would recommend the union consider? (This is an open-ended question.)

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Higher education**

4. Do you support increasing the state's direct investment in public higher education to significantly reduce institutions' reliance on tuition?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

5. Will you support investments in capital bonding projects that preserve buildings, remodel classrooms and keep our technology assets current?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

6. What would you do, as a state legislator, to help with education debt?

Click or tap here to enter text.
High-quality professional educators

7. What will you do to help recruit and retain high-quality educators in our classrooms?

Click or tap here to enter text.

8. Do you support changes to current law to include our fully-licensed Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) and Adult Basic Education (ABE) teachers in the continuing contract law?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

Teacher licensure

9. Do you support changes to state law to allow Tier 1 teachers to join the teacher bargaining unit?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

10. Do you support deleting the option in Tier 3 that allows a person to receive a full professional license without completing a teacher preparation program?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

Standardized testing

11. What individual or system-level decisions in education do you believe are appropriate to make based on standardized test scores?

Click or tap here to enter text.

School safety

12. How do we make our schools safer for both students and educators? How can educators (teachers and education support professionals) be a part of decisions in regards to keeping schools safe?

Click or tap here to enter text.
Union rights

13. Do you support collective bargaining rights?
☐ Yes  ☐ No

14. Will you oppose any legislation or constitutional amendments that would weaken collective bargaining rights, the right to organize, the right to strike, automatic payment of union dues, union access and activities at worksites or other anti-union policies backed by anti-worker groups?
☐ Yes  ☐ No

15. Do you support teacher tenure and due process rights so the experts who work the most with students have the support to stand up for them?
☐ Yes  ☐ No

16. How will you support unions as a state legislator?
Click or tap here to enter text.

Working families

17. Do you support the current language that allows educator locals to unilaterally seek a bid and join the Public Employee Insurance Program (PEIP) as the insurance provider for local bargaining units?
☐ Yes  ☐ No

18. Will you support continuing defined-benefits retirement systems for public employees?
☐ Yes  ☐ No

19. Will you support providing the necessary state funding to ensure financial sustainability of public pension funds?
☐ Yes  ☐ No

20. What legislation could you introduce or support that would reduce the cost of health insurance to school districts?
Click or tap here to enter text.
Privatization

21. Do you oppose state tax credits for private, K-12 education tuition and expenses?
☐ Yes  ☐ No

22. Will you support policy changes that will ensure a stronger accountability system with necessary oversight and reporting to ensure quality management and instructional practices in charter schools?
☐ Yes  ☐ No

23. Will you support a moratorium on new charter schools until such changes are made?
☐ Yes  ☐ No

24. Do you support a proposed amendment to the education clause of the Minnesota Constitution, which would remove the state’s obligation to establish and fund a “general and uniform system of public schools” and replace it with a vague mandate for a “quality public education…as measured against state achievement standards” that are not defined, and which could open the door to vouchers and even greater underfunding of our public schools?
☐ Yes  ☐ No

Your role as a legislator

25. Have you visited a public school in your district in the past year? If so, which one? What were your observations from your visit? How will that experience inform your work as a legislator? If not, would you like us to help arrange a visit?

Click or tap here to enter text.

26. What have you done to become informed on issues relating to public education? What organizations and individuals do you go to for your information?

Click or tap here to enter text.

27. How do you envision working with Education Minnesota if you are elected/reelected?

Click or tap here to enter text.

28. If elected/reelected, how will you balance competing priorities that might exist between Education Minnesota and other education groups?

Click or tap here to enter text.
29. We have seen recent campaigns become highly divisive on controversial issues that may or may not pertain to your specific jurisdiction. This trend is highly likely to happen again in 2020. With that understanding:
   a. How will you talk about race and immigration in your campaign?
   b. How will you address the issues of economic inequality?
   c. How will you talk about education funding on the campaign trail?

Click or tap here to enter text.