

Racial equity and social justice

Creating more just and inclusive Minnesota schools

Whether Black, white or brown, most educators believe every student deserves a high-quality education with professional teachers who nurture a love of learning, meet mistakes with patience and help all students grow.

But over the years, certain politicians have created color-coded barriers to equal education by creating a system that often fails our students and educators of color, and sometimes actively works against them through biased standardized testing, criminalizing certain behaviors and giving students in wealthy neighborhoods more resources than the students who need the most support.

Then those same politicians turn around and point the finger at Black, immigrant and other families of color for our schools' problems while steering money toward unaccountable charter and private schools and letting the wealthiest 1 percent refuse to contribute their fair share.

In 2020, we must move our money towards the proven solutions that set our kids up for fulfilling lives, including recruiting and retaining more teachers of color, embracing restorative justice practices in our schools, rewriting our curricula, expanding full-service community schools and, most of all, giving communities of color a voice and power in dismantling systemic racism in our public schools and colleges.


When we join together across race and place, educators can demand that our schools treat all our children equitably and with compassion, nurturing a love of learning and meeting childhood mistakes with the proven approaches that help students grow.

Three things to know

- Six percent of white children live in poverty in Minnesota, but among Black children, it's 37 percent, among Latinx children it's 17 percent and 12 percent for Asian children, according to the latest Kids Count, a project of the Anne E. Casey Foundation. In 2018, 34 percent of Native American children lived in poverty.
- The incarceration rate for white juveniles in Minnesota is 75 per 100,000. For Latino youths - 130 per 100,000, for African American youths - 648, for Native American youths - 899, according to The Sentencing Project, a watchdog group.
- Students of color and Native American students lag white students in almost every measure. To cite just one example, in the most recent data from the state, the graduation rate for white students in Minnesota was 89 percent, but only 70 percent for Black and Latinx students and 50 percent for Native students.

Continued on back

www.edmnvotes.org

Education Minnesota is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association and AFL-CIO.  1690



FOR 100% VOTING
FOR FULL FUNDING OUR STUDENTS DESERVE
FOR WELCOMING SCHOOLS FOR EVERYONE

#EDMNVOTES

Taking charge

- If you think it's time to bring a \$15 or \$20 minimum wage to your community, or the whole state, vote for the local and state leaders who will deliver it.
- The state Legislature can fund new restorative practices programs, expand full-service community schools and make sure educators are supported in developing welcoming curricula for all students.
- Debt-free college, single-payer health insurance and other policies to shore up our family finances are possible, but only if we vote for the right people for state and federal offices.
- No matter whom you vote for, hold them accountable through your local union, our allies among communities of color, immigrant rights groups and civil rights organizations.