

# Scott Magie

## Education Minnesota 2022 gubernatorial endorsement questionnaire

### Funding a high-quality public school system

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1. “We need more student support personnel in our schools. What will you do to make sure that every student has access to a total team of a school counselor, school nurse, school psychologist and school social worker?” – *Murray, Chokio-Alberta*

**Not all schools and districts are the same due to the location and size of the student body. All districts must have these functions available. The sharing of certain functions can be organized across districts to spread the cost and availability of personnel. In some locations, these functions can be contracted with local qualified individuals or agencies (i.e. clinics, hospitals...) to help reduce the cost of full-time individuals. COVID requires a specific set of tools to be put in place and the schools have not been unsupported the past two years with the complexities that have been induced upon the children and young adults. The support personnel must be made available.**

2. “Would you give your support to a bill to provide equalization aid to low-property wealth school districts who have difficulty passing operation levies?” – *Bob, St. Michael-Albertville*

Yes    No

3. “When will special education be fully funded and provided with resources to reduce our workload which would lead to greater teacher retention?” – *Michelle, Osseo*

**This will require a thorough evaluation and rescoping of the MN budget cycle for the 2024/25 fiscal periods, as well as change the '23 budget upon taking office. A detailed budget built from the bottom-up at the school and district level is necessary before an intelligent State education budget can be generated. I was a special education student, I understand the need for resources in a school district, whether shared across a few districts or dedicated resources in a larger district.**

4. “Intermediate School Districts do not have a specific funding stream and rely on member districts for funding. What are your plans to establish a funding stream specific to intermediates?” – *Susan, Intermediate District 287*

**Have to build the bottom-up budget with detail so specific funding so funds are directed to the correct departments. Review of historical budgets clearly indicates education budgets have grown slower than other large State expenditures, while the student bodies have grown by nearly a quarter of a million in the past 20 years.**



5. “Districts are facing cuts everywhere and now unsustainable working conditions are pushing educators to their breaking point. Will you support fully funding public education to make sure we have smaller class sizes, more supports for students, full-service community schools, educator recruitment and retention and all the other things educators know are needed to provide a world class, equitable, public education to all Minnesota students?” – *Natalia, Rochester*

Yes    No   **Critical that all these issues are addressed as our most valued resources are our kids. Must have the best education services possible so we can ensure our society and economy is provided well educated and dynamic adults.**

6. “Will you support funding for every district that wants to establish full-service community schools?” – *Deanna, Deer River*

Yes    No

7. “Will you oppose policies that permanently dedicate general fund dollars to government expenses not authorized under the current Minnesota Constitution?” – *Mark, St. Francis*

Yes    No

8. “Will you commit to increasing educational funding every year?” – *Justin, Dassel-Cokato*

Yes    No

## Higher education

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9. “Two decades ago, 14 percent of the state budget went to higher education. It’s currently less than 6 percent. What will you do to ensure higher education is funded at the 67 percent level as is required in state statute?” – *Beth, Minnesota State College Faculty*

**Starting with the already approved '23 budget once in office, will redirect funds towards education. Have plan with other budget items to capture those funds and redirect the massive reserves versus spending the reserves on projects pet projects or re-election efforts. The building of the '24/'25 budget will be a substantial effort that will be completed with the integration of all the schools.**

10. “Some of our campuses have no counselors, while others have a ratio of 1:11,000 students. Will you support each Minnesota State campus having at least one counselor so students have access to mental health and academic support services?” – *Lisa, Minnesota State College Faculty*

Yes    No   **See response to questions #1 above.**

11. “Will you support investments in higher education capital bonding projects that preserve buildings, remodel classrooms and keep our technology assets current?” – *Mark, Minnesota State College Faculty*

Yes    No

## Maintaining a high-quality educator workforce

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12. “Minnesota had an educator shortage before the pandemic and now we are at a staffing crisis in our schools. How can the state help districts recruit and retain educators, especially educators of color and young educators, that doesn’t include them taking on extensive education debt and other barriers? And maybe even more crucially, how can we help them feel supported, valued and respected?” – *Patricia, Minnetonka*

**Believe this can be solved with education grants or loans that are forgivable over time with time and service.**

13. “What policy changes or measures are you actively working on to address the teacher shortage in rural Minnesota? What have you specifically done to advance these policy changes or measures?” – *Diana, Red Rock Central*

**Not being a participant in the past, have no policies to point to. As for teacher shortages and funding, additional funding resources need to be budgeted to ensure our children are provided all the resources necessary for a well-rounded education.**

14. “Do you support deleting the option in teacher licensure tier three that allows a person to receive a full professional license without completing a teacher preparation program?” – *Mary, Dakota County United Educators*

Yes  No **I will need to be educated more in the subject before I can respond.**

15. “Will you support full funding for Q Comp and teacher development and evaluation programs?” – *Sara, Centennial*

Yes  No **I will need to be educated more in the subject before I can respond.**

## Racial justice in our schools

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16. “What will you do to decrease the achievement gap for students of color and English language learners?” – *Christy, St. Paul*

**Increase ESP language support services and have a special fund for providing funding to help gap the learning needs of all students.**

17. “How do you plan to address racial inequality in schools and how do you plan on addressing the school-to-prison pipeline?” – *Abigail, aspiring educator*

**This is a multi-faceted issue. Involves changes to the criminal and juvenile laws to provide better clarity. Education needs to be provided at an earlier age in the schools. When I went to MN schools there wasn’t education on consequences. Bridging the gap with funding can help, but is not the end-all solution. Racial inequality in schools is unacceptable and I will require**

**more education from those involved with these inequalities to help scope and create workable solutions.**

18. “Will you support policy and funding changes to ensure that all educators are trained in restorative practices and trauma-informed instruction?” – *David, Mounds View*

Yes  No **To teach all educators will take a herculean effort and time. Training needs to be focused on those best tooled to deal with situations and then progress to all educators over time.**

## Safety/COVID

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19. “How will you make sure administrators and school boards prioritize the mental health of students and educators?” – *Kathryn, retired educator*

**Specific line-item budgeting to ensure all schools have the resources available. The impact of COVID has increased the needs of the students and educators.**

20. “Will you advocate to renew paid time when required to take time off, especially for COVID-related leave like quarantines for educators to take care of themselves and their families?” – *Leslie, Anoka Hennepin*

Yes  No **As Governor, the lock-downs of the past will not happen as well. Intelligent implementation will be used, not political interference from organizations with hidden control objectives.**

21. “What REAL solutions/plan of action do you have regarding gun safety and gun education for our students and staff?” – *Sara, Minneapolis*

**Gun education needs to be made available to all students and staff. This includes making sure the guardians also understand their responsibilities of gun ownership. Minnesota has a high number of hunters and therefore access is prevalent. With the help of legal and other professionals, a structured class can be created to help educate the students. Response to this question will require more detail.**

## Standardized testing

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22. “How are you going to reform our standardized testing to reflect how children show their learning best and keep their developmental needs at the forefront while also measuring school success?” – *Elisa, Burnsville*

**I support standardized testing to understand where a student stands as compared to their peers. I was an example of a student who early on needed evaluation of focused attention. Each student learns differently and at different rates, so standard education protocol does not work for everyone. Identifying the best skills of a student early in the education process is also important and can help lead them down a path.**

23. “What individual or systems-level decisions in education do you believe are appropriate decisions to make based on standardized test results?” – *Lori, Albert Lea*

**Difficult to respond as standardized testing can also be used to interpret varying individual student situations. The environment outside of school can easily impact testing. State of mind at the time of a test changes results. All students respond differently to testing, especially timed testing. Will need more guidance on this question to appropriately answer.**

## Union rights and freedoms

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24. “Will you unequivocally oppose and veto any legislation designed to weaken or eliminate the collective bargaining and negotiating rights of educators and public employees? Will you veto or oppose any legislation or constitutional amendments that would weaken the right to strike, eliminate automatic payment of union dues, restrict union access to workplaces, require annual union recertification or any other anti-union policies backed by anti-worker groups?” – *Monica, Richfield*

Yes  No **This question addresses multiple issues, each requiring a specific evaluation.**

25. “Do you support expanding the mandatory subjects of bargaining to include things like class size, student support staff ratios and other student-focused needs?” – *Janey, St. Paul*

Yes  No

26. “Do you support collective bargaining rights?” – *Ron, Elk River*

Yes  No

27. “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?” – *Ron, Elk River*

Yes  No

28. “Do you support allowing tier one-licensed teachers to join the teacher bargaining unit?” – *Angie, Eden Prairie*

Yes  No **My lack of experience on this question will require more information as I’m sure there are various opinions that must be weighed.**

29. “Do you support changes to current law to include our fully licensed early childhood family education and adult basic education teachers into the continuing contract law?” – *Kimberly, Waubun-Ogema-White Earth*

Yes  No **I will need more information on the subject to adequately answer continuing contract law.**

## Economic and health security

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30. “What legislation could you introduce or support that would reduce the cost of health insurance to school districts? Where do you stand on health care for all?” – *Bob, Burnsville*

**Health insurance costs have become a substantial concern since the revamping of the system in 2010 time frame has multiplied the cost. A State program needs to be evaluated that is more inclusive and less costly. As Governor I would make health insurance availability and affordable cost a priority.**

31. “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?” – *Janelle, Caledonia*

Yes  No **This sounds reasonable, but I would need to first understand the program and restrictions better to answer.**

32. “Does the state of Minnesota have a responsibility to ensure that universal, affordable health care is available to all working Minnesotans, including education support professionals and other low-wage, hourly workers?” – *Linda, Triton*

Yes  No

If yes: “What policies do you support that would accomplish this and what is your plan to enact them?” – *Maria, Roseville*

**I need to educate myself on the current state requirements. No policies at this point.**

## Education debt

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33. “What specifically have you done over the past term that has contributed to raising the wages of underpaid educators throughout the state of Minnesota who are struggling to repay student loans?” – *Tyler, Cambridge-Isanti*

**As I have not been involved in the political process to date and therefore do not have anything to point to. My goal is to improve spending and pay to educators to ensure they are paid and retained to achieve the best-in-class education our children deserve. Student loans is a complex issue and open to discussions to find ways to reduce their financial impact. Repairing the loans process for higher education is a goal that will require changes at the Federal level, of which I want to go to Washington D.C. and to change the liability issue in the future.**

34. “I understand there is the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, but we could use some of that extra relief now. Between distance learning and in-person learning, sometimes both at the same time, we could use a break across the board, especially in rural areas. Will you support more loan forgiveness opportunities for educators?” – *Kelly, Hibbing*

Yes  No

## Pensions

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35. “Pensions are a benefit that helps retain educators in difficult times such as now. How can you commit to retaining and expanding educator pension access?” – *Lisa, Elk River*

**Pensions and the funding of social security is a priority of my platform. Educators deserve access to a pension program that other state employees have access to. Government must be in line with what public educators have access to.**

36. “Do you support exploring new systems for providing educators with a secure retirement, including exploring early retirement options that might help recruit and retain educators?” – *Kim, Crookston*

Yes    No

37. “Will you support keeping a sustainable defined-benefit public pension system?” – *Joan, retired educator*

Yes    No   **See answer to question #35.**

If yes: “Will you support providing the necessary state funding to ensure sustainability of public pension funds?” – *Joan, retired educator*

Yes    No

## Creating just and inclusive Minnesota communities

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38. “What are you going to do to actively disrupt injustice in local and national institutions, policies, laws and practices? What evidence/track record do you have for being a leader in racial equity and social justice issues?” – *Cameron, St. Louis Park*

**I do not have a prior track record. Inequality and available benefits must be made available to all the people of the state equally. I will support efforts to ensure the appropriate laws and practices are either eliminated and others create to unsure social justice for all.**

## Privatization

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39. “How do you feel about charter schools and voucher schools versus the public system?” – *Pamela, Minnesota State College Faculty*

**I believe education can come in many forms and the if parents and their children desire an alternate educational program, they retain that option. State criteria must be met to ensure fully educated and well-rounded students enter our society. Currently do not have a firm position on the voucher program and will require more education myself.**

40. “Do you support a free public education system?” – *Linda, Intermediate District 917*

Yes    No

If yes: “How will you protect it from privatization?” – *Linda, Intermediate District 917*

**Public schools are a foundation for America. The State of Minnesota must continue to support. My children, my wife, and I are a product of public school education.**

If yes: “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?” – *Alex, Minneapolis*

Yes    No

If yes or no: “Do you oppose state tax credits for private, K-12 education tuition?” – *Chris, Sartell*

Yes    No   **The design of a system will require substantial evaluation.**

## Governing

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41. “What are some non-negotiable areas of education that you are unwilling to relent on and how will you ensure that policies are passed that aren’t at the expense of students, families and educators?” – *Maria, Roseville*

**More funding or teachers and programs to provide a thorough education of our children.**

42. “How will you truly get the voice of educators involved in decision making?” – *Corey, Litchfield*

**Through interactions both in person and through specific surveys of educators to weigh concepts to model change on. Direct and specific polling. Engagement of educator teams focused on various specific needs to ensure funding and tools are provided.**

## Honesty in education

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43. “I’m a first-year social studies teacher who is passionate about teaching my students to be effective and knowledgeable citizens in their communities. What is the best way to help foster that, in your opinion?” – *Charles, Intermediate District 287*

**I want all children to be taught all views in social studies so they are provided differing views and perspectives so they can make their own decisions as they become adults.**

44. “What are you going to do to protect teachers in the classroom and ensure that we have the freedom to teach?” – *Paul, Fosston*



**Response pending as this is not an easy answer. Required teaching is for well-rounded students is critical. What does not belong in public education is personal views and perspectives.**

45. “Do you agree that Minnesotan students deserve an honest and accurate education about race that enables them to learn from the mistakes of our past so they can create a better future for all Minnesotans? Why or why not?” – *James, aspiring educator*

**History is one of the best educations available. Mistakes are the best example of education. What is acceptable in one society is not the same across all. To appropriately respond to this question, it will take more time.**

## Time to teach

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46. “The planning and differentiating that teachers do daily needs more time. And, most after school ‘prep’ is filled with meetings. I believe the current statute falls short of the time needed for preparing lessons. Are you open to adjusting this statute to increase prep time?” – *Natasha, Minneapolis*

Yes    No

47. “Will you support legislation that protects an educator’s prep time so it can’t be used for meetings or them always subbing for colleagues?” – *Carl, Duluth*

Yes    No

48. “Do you support paid, dedicated time outside of their student contact time for special education teachers to complete their paperwork and required meetings?” – *Heather, Dakota County United Educators*

Yes    No

## Education support professionals

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49. “A school can't run without paraprofessionals and other support professionals, but we are paid the least. Will you support a \$25 minimum wage for all ESPs in Minnesota?” – *Ma-Riah, Minneapolis, and Ryan, Intermediate District 917*

Yes    No   **Job function and services rates in the professional world are not one rate fits all. This will require more information to answer properly.**

50. “ESPs were, and continue to be, on the front lines of the pandemic response in schools. We were the ones working in person throughout all of COVID-19, putting our health and families at risk. We did all of this without the financial stability or leaves available to us as professional workers. What would you do to make ESPs a profession that is supported with the respect of professional wages and benefits?” – *Victoria, Robbinsdale*

**Will require me education for myself to answer properly.**

51. “Do you support ESPs being able to access unemployment insurance in the summers, when they are not guaranteed work?” – *Karin, White Bear Lake*

Yes    No

52. “Many paraprofessionals do not receive any training even though their job is vital to student success. Do you agree that ESPs should have dedicated, paid training each year that is specific to their work and students’ needs?” – *Mary, Spring Lake Park*

Yes    No

53. “Do you believe ESPs who worked in-person throughout the pandemic should qualify for frontline essential worker pay? And will you increase the amount of money for that funding so all workers who deserve it can receive hero pay?” – *Ona, South Washington County*

Yes    No

## Revenue

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54. “Will you commit to raising new revenue by requiring the wealthiest corporations and richest households to pay what they truly owe in taxes so every student, no matter what they look like or where they live, can attend a world-class, fully funded public school that prepares each student to pursue their dreams?” – *Leah, Lakeville*

Yes    No   **The MN State tax burden is already the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in the Republic. The balancing of taxation is dynamic and requires thoughtful policies. Expenditures by the State do require a complete revamping as it has resulted in a disparity between education and other expenses over the past two decades. The taxation of Minnesotans and job providers needs to be thoughtfully levied to ensure the existing corporations do not relocate, that new businesses desire to locate to Minnesota and the high end taxpayers are not chased out of the States as a result of over-taxation. Minnesota needs the expansion of good jobs throughout the State to ensure continued economic growth and a higher standard of living across all socioeconomic groups. Progressive income taxes do tax the largest wage earners, which is not appropriately levied at this time.**