

## 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 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 \$25 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

Education Support Professionals

2. Do you support ESPs being able to access unemployment insurance in the summers, when they are not guaranteed work?

Yes  No

3. Will you support dedicated, paid training each year for education support professionals to get the training they need that is specific to their work and students' needs?

Yes  No

Taxes/revenue

4. Would you commit to raising revenue to ensure the wealthiest corporations and richest households pay what they truly owe in taxes so every student, no matter what they look like or where they live, can attend a fully funded public school that prepares them to pursue their dreams?

Yes  No

5. Education Minnesota believes in restoring fairness to the state tax code by raising revenue from the very wealthiest corporations and richest households and reducing the reliance on local levies to fund schools. Considering your own experience and expertise, are there other progressive, equitable ways to raise state revenue that you would recommend the union consider supporting?

*I would recommend support for legalizing cannabis and using some of the tax proceeds for our children.*

Higher education

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

Yes  No

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

Yes  No

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

*I believe that we should lower the cost of higher education and make the first 2-years of college free. Additionally, I would increase our investments for Grant's and resources for college work study programs. Lastly, I believe we should lower the cost of remedial courses in higher education.*

9. Some college 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?

Yes  No

High-quality professional educators

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

*I will support raising salaries for our educators. I support investing in educators' education. Finally, I will support ensuring members of our education community have benefits that will help them remain in the classroom.*

11. 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

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

Yes  No

13. 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

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

*I believe that it is important that all testing be connected to lifelong learning. Additionally, I do not believe tests should be administered just for the sake of administering a test. We should administer with defined goals.*

Honesty in Education

15. What can you do to protect teachers in the classroom and ensure that they have the freedom to teach?

*We should allow teachers the freedom to teach in our classrooms and use creativity to design, promote and outline the curriculum that meets the learning styles of the students in their classrooms.*

16. 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?

Yes I agree,

Our past is a part of our history. An accurate historical selection, whether good or bad, must be shared with our students as a means to understand the past with the hope of not repeating the same mistakes in the future. Unfortunately, the lack of discussion about each in our classrooms seems to hurt all students.

Time to Teach

17. The planning and differentiating that teachers do daily needs more time. Most after school “prep” is filled with meetings. The current statute falls short of the time needed for preparing lessons. Will you support adjusting this statute to increase prep time?

Yes  No

18. Will you support legislation that protects an educator’s prep time so it can’t be used for meetings or having to sub for colleagues?

Yes  No

19. Do you support paid, dedicated time outside of student contact time for special education teachers to complete their paperwork and required meetings?

Yes  No

Union Rights

20. Do you support collective bargaining rights?

Yes  No

21. 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

22. 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

23. How will you support unions as a state legislator?

*I have and I will continue to support any and all policies that protect workers.*

Working families

24. 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

25. Will you support continuing defined-benefits retirement systems for public employees?

Yes  No

26. Will you support providing the necessary state funding to ensure financial sustainability of public pension funds?

Yes  No

27. Will you support exploring new systems for providing educators with a secure retirement, including exploring early retirement options that might help recruit and retain educators?

Yes  No

28. 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?

*I have and I will continue to support healthcare for all. By supporting healthcare for all we lower the out of pocket cost for educators.*

## Privatization

29. Do you oppose state tax credits for private K-12 education tuition and expenses?

Yes  No

30. 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

31. Will you support a moratorium on new charter schools until such changes are made?

Yes  No

32. Minnesota students, from different places and of different races, deserve well-resourced, welcoming schools. These needs are urgent and can't wait decades for lawyers and courts to force it to happen.

Do you oppose efforts that would delete constitutional mandates for using taxation to fund public education funding and for providing equal access to public schools to all students?

Yes  No

Do you also oppose these same efforts that would enshrine standardized testing – with all its racial, cultural and economic biases – into the Minnesota Constitution?

Yes  No

Your role as a legislator

33. 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, when did you last visit a school? Would you like us to help arrange a visit?

*Yes I have, North High School, Bethune, Southwest and Lucy Laney, just to name a few. My observation while at these public schools, I saw educators, parents and paraprofessionals all working in tandem to make sure kids were receiving a quality education. My visits to public schools will help advocate for what is needed in our public schools to help make sure that students, teachers and parents receive the resources and support to deliver a quality education.*

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

*I have worked with parents, MFT, the Minneapolis Public Schools and others to discuss and identify what is needed in our public schools.*

35. How do you envision working with Education Minnesota if you are elected/re-elected? If you disagree with us on an issue, how will you communicate that?

*I envision working with Education Minnesota by reviewing session priorities and I will call and engage the organization as well as others to ensure my concerns are addressed and also work with them to come up with a viable solution that helps Minnesota Children.*

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

*As a legislator, I am accustomed to talking to a variety of groups from the same industry. Historically, I have maintained a good working relationship with all and I listen to the various issues and use every opportunity to get advice on a viable solution. I think it is important to have a cross section of conversations and advice from a cross section of Minnesotans who have diverse views.*