

# Grant Hauschild – Senate District 3

## Education Minnesota candidate questionnaire

### Education funding

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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: 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, licensed school 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

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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

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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 believe it is critical that we maintain Minnesota's progressive tax system to provide more equitable education across our state. It's one of the things that makes Minnesota stand out compared to neighboring states. However, there is always more we can do to provide the funding needed to improve our schools, ensure our teachers have the resources, pay, and training they need to succeed, and more. I'd be interested in looking back at the Minnesota Miracle model from the 1970's and finding out how we can create a modernized version. In addition to income and corporate taxes, there are opportunities to look at bank excise taxes, taconite taxes, and more.**

## Higher education

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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?

**There are several ways I would like to assist with education debt. First and foremost, I truly believe Minnesota would benefit from a State-Owned Bank like North Dakota. In ND, they implemented something called a 'DEAL ONE' loan through their state-owned bank via subsidization from their legislature that provides as low as 1.5% interest rates on loans. I believe Minnesota could benefit from such an entity competing with the private bank institutions in our state, and also provide an opportunity for us to provide extremely low interest rate student loans.**

**I would also look for opportunities to cut education debt for those at low-to-middle income levels via tax credits or other means.**

**We must look at better funding our higher education public universities in Minnesota to reduce the burden of tuition on our students. My idea is to not only provide more funding for the institution but provide a loan relief plan for students that study at UofM, Minnesota State, or community colleges in Minnesota and stay in the state after graduating. This would help our young residents who want to stay and work in our state.**

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

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

**We have to pay teachers the wages they deserve. That was my statement in my campaign launch video and I firmly believe it. No teacher should have to leave the profession they love and trained for in order to make more money in the private sector. We need the absolute best teaching our young people and paying them more, providing them better benefits, etc. is all part of what it will take to ensure we recruit and retain our teachers.**

**It would also be great to get to a place where teachers had an opportunity to shadow or transfer to other educational opportunities within the public school system. This could encourage teachers to find areas they love, explore new concepts, find inspiration and more.**

**Most importantly, we have to give teachers a voice in the decision-making process. I would strongly support any model or ideas that would not only encourage but require teachers to be at the table for formal educational decisions at their institutions.**

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

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

Yes    No (*I would welcome the chance to learn more about this from your membership*)

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 (*I would welcome the chance to learn more about this from your membership*)

## Standardized testing

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

**There are multiple issues that arise when relying on standardized tests for making broad decisions in education. For one, there could be cultural, economic, or personal circumstances that create inequities in test score results. In addition, not every individual is going to be skilled at testing. I consider myself to be a smart enough person, but I have never done well on standardized tests because it isn't something I'm good at. I think having standardized tests can play a role in certain**

**uneventful circumstances but I absolutely do not think it is appropriate for system-level or individual decisions to be made based off of them.**

## Honesty in Education

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

**We need to protect and enhance teachers prep time so they can have the freedom they need to lesson plan, prepare for the day, and have the down time necessary to look forward towards their goals for the classroom, students, and themselves. In addition, we need to give teachers the freedom to teach their lessons in a way they think works for their students, their school, and their community rather than require standardization in teaching.**

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, absolutely. History of all kinds is important so that we do not repeat the errors of the past. This is especially important in a racial context given the terrible history our country has experienced with regards to racial discrimination. In addition, it is important that racial minority's history is not erased just because it may not fit with the modern culture of the day.**

## Time to Teach

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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

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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 always supported unions. I've campaigned for only pro-labor and pro-union candidates since my first campaign during the 2006 election. In addition, I served as a Legislative Aide on Labor Policy for U.S. Senator Heidi Heitkamp who was a strong labor advocate. In addition, I'm heavily involved in the Northeast Area Labor Council where I've formed partnerships and friendships with many pro-labor stakeholders. That is why I'm endorsed, or awaiting state org approval for endorsement, by several labor unions including the Teamsters Local Council 32, AFSCME Local 5, MNA, Northeast Area Labor Council, Iron Range Labor Assembly, Duluth Building and Construction Trades, MAPE, Ironworkers Local 512, Plumbers Union Local 11, and much more. I will support unions as a legislator by continuing to be who I am and fighting for unions every day.**

## Working families

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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?

**In my day job, I run a hospital foundation. In that capacity, I raise money for patients and families that can't afford the care they need to survive. While it may seem odd, my goal is to make my job less necessary. I believe we need health care for all and I would strongly support a public healthcare program that provides affordable healthcare for everyone.**

## Privatization

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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

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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, Hermantown Public Schools. I believe we are lucky in Hermantown where I live to have strong facilities and very strong public-school teachers that others in the region envy. However, it is my sense that the school is already starting to feel too small for our growing community and**



**significant investment is going to be needed to build a second elementary school soon, as well as a possible addition to our middle-school/High-School.**

**I would very much like to visit more schools in my district alongside Ed Mn teachers or representatives to have more hands-on experience with our schools across the Northland.**

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?

**As a City Councilor in Hermantown, we often have to work with our School Board on community and educational related issues. Through that work I've met with current and former school board members, met teachers, and talked with union allies about the issues impacting our education system. I go to the Northeast Area Labor Council and Ed Mn representatives to learn more about educational issues.**

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 want education to be one of my top issues because it is truly important to me. I am where I am today because of good teachers, strong schools, and because of mentors who helped me discover my passions. As a Senator, I want Ed Mn to be one of the organizations I'm not just meeting with when there is an issue, but rather a group I rely on for holistic advice in an array of policy issues and work proactively with to solve the challenges we face. If we disagree on an issue, I do not think it will be difficult to communicate because if I'm doing my job, we will already be talking and figuring out where we need to come to an agreement long before any larger issues arise.**

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

**When I worked as U.S. Senator Heidi Heitkamp's Political Director, she gave me a compliment that I still appreciate to this day. She told me that I should have been an ambassador because of my ability to bring together opposing factions, put out fires before they start, and find compromises that create win-win scenarios for everyone. While that isn't always possible, I firmly believe I'm the type of person that can balance competing priorities and provide the clear communication, ideas, and compromises necessary to achieve a net gain. With all this said, I anticipate Ed Mn being one of my top allies and would guess that in nearly every situation you will be the group that I work alongside when issues arise.**