

Candidate for Minnesota House District 13B

Jul 9, 2026

Yes/No questions

1. Have you visited a public school in your district in the past year?

Yes

Q2. ESP living wage: Will you support legislation to ensure that all education support professionals earn a living wage of at least \$25 an hour?

Yes

Q3. Due to significantly below-market compensation for teachers, most school districts in Minnesota are having difficulty filling teaching jobs, and state colleges report a continued decline in the number of graduates from teacher preparation programs. Would you support creating a minimum salary for all licensed Minnesota teachers of \$60,000 a year and an \$80,000 minimum salary for licensed teachers with 10 years of experience and a master's degree?

Yes

Q4. Will you support increasing state funding to ensure the financial sustainability of educator public pension funds, so the cost doesn't come out of workers' pockets?

Yes

Q5. Will you support improving teacher pensions, including an unreduced career rule, lowering penalties, and increasing cost of living adjustments for retirees?

Yes

Q6. Do you support the creation of and funding for the Educator Group Insurance Program (EGIP), which would give educators access to a mandatory statewide health insurance pool, just like other state workers?

Yes

Q7. Do you support dedicated funding for unemployment insurance for hourly school workers, and will you work against any efforts to repeal this benefit?

Yes

Do you support the following education funding priorities?

Q8a. Maintain the current automatic inflationary increase to the basic formula allowance, protecting funding increases from the erosion of inflation.

Yes

Q8b. SPED cross subsidy: Fully fund special education costs instead of relying on school districts to pay for them.

Yes

Q8c. EL cross subsidy: Fully fund the costs districts pay to provide quality English learner programs and instruction.

Yes

Q8d. Lower class sizes: Lower class sizes so teachers can give students more of the individual attention they need and deserve.

Yes

Q8e. Teachers of color: Fund programs to increase the number of teachers of color significantly so that teachers providing instruction better reflect the students in our classrooms.

Yes

Q8f. Student support: Defend Student Support Personnel Aid, which must be used for school nurses, social workers, counselors and psychologists.

Yes

Q8g. Defend against further cuts to school library aid, which is the only dedicated funding source for school libraries and media centers, including

Yes

Q8h. Early learning: Preserve and expand pre-Kindergarten options for all Minnesota families.

Yes

Q9. 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

Q11. Fully funded schools require adequate and stable revenues. Will you oppose tax cuts and carve outs that lower tax collections or narrow the tax base?

Yes

Q12. Efforts to address college affordability in the last two decades have resulted in 120% growth in the State Grant Program. One consequence of this high tuition/high aid model has been the chronic underfunding of the public college systems. Do you support returning to statutory funding levels for our public higher education institutions?

Yes

Q13. Another consequence of this high tuition/high aid model has been a significant amount of public money going to private colleges and universities. Do you support public dollars going solely to public higher education institutions?

Yes

Q14. Given nationwide attacks on higher education, do you support academic freedom and faculty control of curriculum?

Yes

Q17. Education Minnesota believes all students should have the freedom to feel safe, respected and welcomed in their public schools, no matter what they look like, no matter their country of origin, whether transgender or not. Do you agree?

Yes

Q18. Teachers need more time daily for planning and differentiating. 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

Q19. Do you support paid, dedicated time outside of student contact time for special education teachers to complete their paperwork and attend required meetings?

Yes

Q20. Do you support increased reporting and transparency in worksite safety when reporting physical injuries and emotional trauma in the workplace?

Yes

Q21. The ability of workers to come together in a union and bargain collectively has been vital for reducing wage gaps by gender, building the middle class, and limiting wealth inequality in Minnesota. Do you support expanding and strengthening workers' rights to join a union and bargain collectively?

Yes

Q22. 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

Q23. Do you oppose state tax credits for private K-12 education tuition and expenses?

Yes

Q24. Will you support a moratorium on new charter schools until policy changes are made to ensure a stronger accountability system that will eliminate fraud and improve instructional and employment practices?

Yes

Q25. Will you reject all efforts to carve out, delay or rollback any aspects or benefits of the 2023 paid family medical leave law?

Yes

Q26. Do you support clarifying and strengthening workers' rights and protections in the paid family medical leave program?

Yes

Q1a. If yes: Which one? What were your observations from your visit? How will this experience inform your work as a legislator?

Because I have neither children nor grandchildren in school any more, my only occasion for visiting a local public school was for the purpose of attending political caucuses and conventions.

Q10. 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. What progressive, equitable ways to raise state revenue do you support?

This has long been one of my complaints about funding for public education, for which the Minnesota Constitution requires an "equitable system." The over-reliance on revenue raised by property tax and local levies is the reason why, for instance, Edina High School has 16 assistant football coaches, while some rural districts hold bake sales to buy band instruments, etc. for their students. I don't have a ready answer for a more equitable system, other than, as you have suggested, a "progressive, equitable" way, in a similar fashion to how a progressive income tax has marginal rates that increase with the ability of the filer to pay. The burden should be at least partially shifted to those who profit from having a well-educated workforce to staff their business and generate revenue.

Q15. What individual or system-level decisions in education do you believe are appropriate to make based on standardized test scores?

As I have never worked as either an educator or administrator, I would be in over my head in trying to answer this question, but I am certainly willing to be further educated about these issues. I am guessing that test scores are usually affected by a variety of factors, and that they are often not an accurate reflection of the efficiency of educational programs. A simple number is unlikely to account for cultural differences between one group of students and another, who may have grown up in vastly different circumstances, and cannot be reasonably expected to benefit from a particular educational method in the same way as a different group.

Q16. Most educators believe students should have access to a wide range of age-appropriate books that include relatable characters and situations that reflect the diversity of Minnesota families. However, certain politicians and big money groups are trying to remove books from school libraries across America, particularly books with LGBTQ+ characters or those that deal with racism in America. How should Minnesota protect its students' freedom to read?

I've heard far too many stories about how local school boards, often composed of some members who have little or no training in education, bring their own biases and phobias to the table, and, because it's likely that most people have never attended a meeting of their school board, are often successful in enacting reactionary policies that ban selected books from schools. I think a good start to responding to this would be a statutory prohibition from impinging upon a trained school librarian's freedom to make available to students relevant material, bearing in mind that there is no such thing as "normal" or "abnormal." Students have enough trouble growing up without being subjected to censorship.

Q27. How would you support schools, educators and students in recovering from the trauma and financial impacts that Operation Metro Surge inflicted upon our state, especially BIPOC communities?

First, there should be an absolute ban on ICE agents, etc. being present on or near school facilities. I believe that we already have legislation in place that makes it a criminal offense for persons to deal drugs in similar locations. Why then should we allow untrained, masked and armed goons who have engaged in extrajudicial actions, including kidnapping and murder, anywhere near our schools? Although I am not intimately familiar with how schools and school districts are reimbursed by the state on a "per-pupil daily basis," or whatever it's called, I'm guessing that there has been a precipitous drop in such funding in areas where schools are heavily populated with families of immigrants (and citizens whose physical appearance or accents made them suspect to the goon squads) whose parents were understandably afraid to send their children to school. I imagine that it takes as much funding to operate a school even when it's only half full of students. We should find some way to make whole those who were so unjustly affected.