



Candidate for Minnesota Senate District 15

Jun 22, 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?

No

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?

No

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?

I frequently visit New Ulm Public Schools as I have had two children in the school system (one just graduated this year, one future 8th grader) who are active in sports and activities. Their involvement has also provided me the opportunity to visit many other middle and high schools throughout Minnesota. I estimate I have been in around 50 different MN Schools in the past 48 months, mainly in their common areas and gyms.

Last Wednesday, I toured the new K-12 school in Mapleton, MN and learned of the challenges in passing the referendum. This is not an isolated issue for Mapleton as many communities struggle with referendum passage and margins are at times are scarily narrow.

I strongly believe our educational system needs to be supported in ways that attract and retain quality teachers and support staff, provide reliable and affordable benefits for teachers and staff, and provide educators with the peace of mind they are being supported and can count on continued pay increases that align with their education and experience.

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?

While educational costs have been better supported from the State recently, this level of support needs to be maintained so that we do not fall behind again and eventually expanded to help make up ground.

I would like to better understand what financial support is needed to support the costs needed to fully fund ESL, SPED, pensions, and other programs and expenses. I see this as part of one school system unit.

There is still a place for local levies, property tax support and other support, but larger corporations and wealthier households have a responsibility to contribute to education.

I can't say whether or not I'd support another separate tax, but I would support funding for your proposals above if we had some good numbers to work with that would cover the costs of funding all these programs.

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

As someone who was always a strong scorer on standardized tests, I believe they play an important role in evaluating student progress and identifying opportunities for schools and districts, but that funding and other support should not be solely tied to standardized test outcomes.

Every student is an individual that learns, absorbs, processes, and applies his or her learnings in different ways. If every student was given a test that assessed his/her mechanical skills or athletic abilities, there would be significant differences as well.

If the same trends/scores/outcomes are noted over time for a specific school or district, this gives us information that indicates there may be some gaps in curriculum that should be explored.

The metrics on which schools are evaluated should be used as a tool to identify areas of opportunity. To continue to reward higher scoring schools only adds to further equity imbalances.

I understand the need for standardized tests to compare our educational systems against other state's systems, but care should be taken when assessing students individually, and when using scoring results and averages to make these assumptions.

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'll say I wholeheartedly agree we need to have books in our schools and libraries that reflect our uniqueness and diversity. As a society, both our adults and younger people are feeling more isolated than any prior generation, despite our 'social' connectivity. Books provide people of all ages an ability to sink into new worlds, learn about new things, and most importantly, resources and information to let them know that they're not alone in how they feel, or with what's happening in their lives. School aged children at all grade levels are still undergoing brain development and transitions as they make their way through adolescence and into adulthood. Limiting their ability to access books and educational materials that answer questions they might not ask an adult but want to better understand is simply ridiculous.

We also need books that were written in a variety of times, when our world was different. We have to assume that the authors of our most famous and well-known classics were writing in ways that captured the essence and language of the era authored, and that the intent of the author, editor, publisher, or other, was not intended to offend a reader or group.

I've read Fahrenheit 451 and I see where this may be headed, and it's not good. Attempting to remove books that capture times in a way that some find offensive today is small -minded, short-sighted, and quite frankly ignorant. Attempting to remove access to books that discuss tough topics like sexuality and sexual preferences, racism, substance abuse, and other topics significant to young people and teenagers makes absolutely no sense to me.

How should Minnesota protect its students' freedom to read? This is a difficult question to answer because it's literally an attack on our first amendment rights and a question we shouldn't even need to be asking, but we have to. One doesn't have to agree with what is in a book, but that it has a right to be written. The hard part of this is that there are authors who today have a greater sense of entitlement and write pieces designed to incite violence, misinform readers, and insult and offend people purposefully.

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?

What happened to our Minnesota schools and communities as a direct result of the direction of the national administration was clearly done to single out Minnesota and punish a State that did and does not overwhelmingly support the policies and practices of the current presidential administration. What was done was abhorrent

Our communities and school systems were affected across Minnesota, including my neighboring community of Sleepy Eye. I would support mental health assistance for students, staff and faculty directly affected by these raids. I am not familiar with the directly estimated financial impacts but would be supportive of efforts to offset costs incurred by affected districts and schools.

In closing, I'd like to state that I am extremely supportive of education, unions, fair pay, affordable healthcare, safe working environments, and pension protections. However, I also believe there at times needs to be negotiations and discussions of how we can actually afford all these initiatives without digging ourselves further into a financial hole.

I support protecting our libraries and educational systems from attempts to limit books and other educational resources based on topics that are simply just uncomfortable for some people to talk about. These need to be accessible for our students and for all readers.

I support healthy pay and catching up salaries, but have trouble supporting a \$25 minimum wage for all school staff, regardless of experience or education as it will create rippling financial impacts that will extend well outside of the educational system. A full-time employee would have a salary of \$52,000 per year - not far off the starting teacher salary that requires a degree and years of education, and essentially all the same benefits. I don't know enough about how this would get funded, and for now would be comfortable leaving these decisions in the hands of the districts but might support a scaled or tiered system of compensation based on experience, performance, education, and other related factors.

I believe corporations need to pay their fair share of educational taxes as they benefit from the workforce that is primarily developed in Minnesota and I believe a balance of local taxes, property taxes, corporate taxes, and other applicable taxes are needed to effectively support our educational system, appropriately compensate the staff and faculty of our schools, and that best supports public schools and school systems.

I would be happy to answer any additional questions and appreciate the time you gave to me today for my interview. Thank you for being educators and for going above and beyond to dedicate even more of your time with Education MN.