



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?

No

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?

Chisago Lakes High School, and Lakeside Elementary school. Disclosure: kids were not in school at the time. What I noticed is good infrastructure for lots of kids to build community and strong academic and technical skills. The facilities in the Chisago Lakes Area are beautiful, but through conversations with both Superintendents of the two school districts in my House District (Chisago Lakes and North Branch), there are important deferred maintenance needs that our populace has not passed a referendum to support. The school districts then have to look to their various discretionary budgets to upkeep the facilities, which ultimately makes the district less flexible to provide wage increases and benefits for teachers and staff, as well as tightens budgets for youth programs.

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?

A fifth-tier income tax bracket for individuals earning more than \$600k per year, or couples earning more than \$1,000,000 as introduced by Representative Hollins. I would also support an increase in the corporate tax rate. I am open to many different options for increasing revenue by increasing taxes on the wealthiest of our state. They received a major tax cut with the BBB, so MN needs to find a way to capture some of those savings that corporations and wealthy people are enjoying because our State is filling in the gaps left by the federal government.

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

Standardized test scores may indicate where a student is lacking in basic foundational concepts, and could be used to identify which students need more attention in these areas. It may also indicate other, external factors that are driving these students' test scores down, and a counselor may be able to help in those cases.

All in all, standardized tests are not standard, and they have been shown to paint a negative light on certain types of learners, and set those students up for a more difficult school experience due to their different learning style, their test-taking ability, or their home life in ways which are not fair to the student.

I am no expert in the ways that standardized test scores effect students' academic lives, or the system, but I am interested to learn more and would be in favor of evaluations of students that are not in the "standardized test" model.

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?

This is one of the more difficult issues to parse because I am against book banning, but I also don't want kids consuming racist or homophobic literature. I think a few things which I will describe here, but I am interested to hear policy proposals that already exist to help define my position.

1. Ultimately, the best defense for our students against xenophobia and hateful ideologies of all sorts is for kids to read more. It's when we limit the number of books that people become dogmatic, and that can lead to hate-filled ideology.
2. School librarians are extraordinary professionals who decide what is presented in their libraries and they should be trusted to upkeep a diverse library catalogue with diverse authors, characters, and subjects
3. I don't support additional oversight of our librarians or our libraries - especially not from parents or politicians - because they are often politically motivated, not educationally motivated.

Like I said above, I'm curious how people are currently thinking about policies which protect students' freedom to read, and I will stand on the side of increasing the diversity of voices, not limiting or banning certain narratives and perspectives.

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?

Increasing funding for the schools is the first thing: but those funds can and should be used for counseling for students and teachers, food for students' families, additional educational and peer support, and to support teacher and staff salaries. There is no doubt that public schools are the greatest public asset that exists in our country because it is where our communities are created. Friends that I made in public school (in St. Louis, MO) are still my deepest friends. These are relationships that will carry through our communities forever, and the school buildings themselves are extraordinary public spaces where gathering, and growing movements can happen. Teachers are at the heart of our communities, and we need to begin providing them the resources they need to feel rested, recovered, and ready for whatever traumas occur in our communities.