

Candidate for Minnesota House District 34A

Jun 25, 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?

I have 3 children in my blended family still in school. My two oldest are at Osseo Middle School and my step daughter is at Jackson Middle School. Thankfully they are involved in band and other afterschool activities that bring us to see their school. We also regularly visit for parent teacher conferences, plays, athletic events, and other amazing activities. I genuinely appreciate the time educators and staff spend on our kids. Beginning year orientation is my favorite. It is always a treat to meet the people who are going to be so impactful in our kids' lives over the next year. Seeing the pride that teachers put into prepping their rooms for education and inclusion is beautiful.

Having children in public school and having gone through public school myself (Go Winhawks) gives me a personal connection to the outcome of all legislation that touches on education, or that may divert funds that would otherwise go to education. I have relatives who are current teachers and retired teachers. This network also helps ensure that promises made are promises kept.

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?

As a father of three children in public schools, I believe every student deserves access to a great education regardless of their ZIP code, and that requires a tax system that is fair and sustainable. I support asking the wealthiest households and largest corporations to pay their fair share by closing corporate tax loopholes, preventing tax avoidance schemes, and maintaining a progressive tax structure that invests in the services Minnesotans rely on. I also believe the state should shoulder a greater share of education funding so that school districts are less dependent on local property tax levies, helping ensure all students have access to quality schools, well-supported educators, and the resources they need to succeed.

I favor taxation policies that bring parity between corporations and the individuals those corporations derive their profit from. Initiatives like taxing internet advertising help claw back those funds and ensure the people are compensated when a company uses them for profit.

Lastly, I am open to reviewing the interest rate payments from the Minnesota Land Trust as a possible additional revenue stream for Minnesota schools and educators.

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

Standardized test scores can be one useful tool for identifying trends, gaps in achievement, and areas where additional support or resources may be needed. They can help policymakers and school leaders understand where students may be struggling and whether interventions are working over time. However, test scores should never be the sole measure used to evaluate students, educators, or schools. Education is broader than a single test. We should also value student growth, classroom engagement, critical thinking, creativity, career readiness, and the relationships educators build with students and families. I believe standardized testing should inform decisions, but not dominate the conversation.

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?

Students deserve access to age-appropriate books and materials that reflect the range of Minnesota communities and experiences. Educators, librarians, and parents should work together to make thoughtful decisions about curriculum and library materials, not politicians seeking headlines or outside groups trying to impose ideological agendas on local schools.

I trust trained educators and library professionals to make decisions that support students' learning and development. Protecting students' freedom to read also means ensuring that students can see themselves and their communities reflected in the stories they encounter in school.

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?

Schools work best when students feel safe, supported, and able to focus on learning. Immigration enforcement actions create fear and instability for students and families, especially in communities that already face barriers to accessing educational and social services.

I support ensuring schools have access to mental health resources, social workers, counselors, and community partnerships that help students and families recover from trauma and maintain stability. I also believe schools should have clear guidance so educators can focus on teaching while protecting students' rights and maintaining trust with families.

Most importantly, we need to make sure every child, regardless of their background or family circumstances, can walk into a classroom feeling safe, welcomed, and ready to learn. The Supreme Court ruled loudly and clearly in *Plyler v. Doe* that undocumented students need to be allowed to learn in our schools. Our job as legislators is to support schools as they ensure practical access to that right, or we are complicit in depriving students of that right.