



Candidate for Minnesota House District 35B

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?

Sand Creek Elementary in Coon Rapids. I read to four different classes.

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?

Minnesotans know that our country was founded on a free and fair public education for all and it is fundamental to a just and democratic society. Unfortunately, many of our schools today are not meeting this vision for what we as Minnesotans want for our children. Why? Republicans will say that the public school system is failing and vouchers are the answer. I say that this does not align with Minnesotans' values. We believe all students deserve a free and fair education, but private schools do not take all students. They can decline students and too often, our kids with higher needs are turned down. The real solution is a shift back to funding education the way it was before 2003.

From 2003-2023, funding for schools from the state did not keep up with inflation and therefore, districts began seeking property tax levies to make up the difference. Not only is this not equitable, it is unsustainable. In 2003, under Governor Pawlenty, state funding to schools was cut, massively, and we have never recouped those losses. Districts rich in businesses and industry can pass large local property tax levies, while districts that cannot afford to pass increasing local property tax levies are decimated and cannot even provide basic education services. Increasingly, these funding inequities are creating school districts that are divided into the haves or the have-nots.

As a public school teacher with a career that began in 1999, I have seen the devastation this has caused many school districts. I witnessed a shift from education support professionals being able to work one-on-one with our kids with the highest need to trying to assist up to fifteen high needs students at a time. I have seen counselors with over 850 students assigned to them. I have seen classrooms packed with over 40 students. This is a crisis mode of operation, and sadly, it has become the norm.

In order to bring back the education our kids deserve in Minnesota, we must raise revenue and fully fund our schools. I support a wealth tax that would create a new tier for the wealthiest Minnesotans. I also support taxes on services, taxes on social media advertising, and ending tax exemptions for our wealthiest Minnesotans and big corporations.

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

Standardized tests such as the MCA's have a limited scope and are being used in ways they shouldn't be.

These tests are only a snapshot in time. These tests are not diagnostic at the individual level. Teachers know more about the students than the tests will ever show. It is unfortunate that the test results are sent home. The purpose of these tests should be to identify the lowest performing schools in the state and help them with an improvement plan.

Sometimes the results are misunderstood. For example, the Reading test in particular is not about just "reading" nor decoding, it is about comprehension, understanding context, and more advanced skills.

These tests should not be compared these state to state. And you shouldn't compare different grades. You can only use them to compare a school to a school effectively. It's also very difficult to measure change over time with these tests because the communities the schools are in can change.

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?

At the state level, we must continue to protect and promote the freedom to read, which is a fundamental aspect of our democracy. Book bans at the local level have been successfully challenged in Minnesota. We must protect our state law: ACCESS TO LIBRARY MATERIALS AND RIGHTS PROTECTED.

§Subdivision 1. Book banning prohibited. A public library must not ban, remove, or otherwise restrict access to a book or other material based solely on its viewpoint or the messages, ideas, or opinions it conveys.

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?

In short, I support the bills that the DFL House introduced this session to protect Minnesotans from ICE and to help our communities recover. HF 3435, 3415, 3411, 3412, 3358, 3414, 3405, 3483, 3468, and more. Fully funding schools so that they have the mental health access, social workers, and counselors they need. Provide our educators a stable life with EGIP and the ESP Bill of Rights so that they have the bandwidth to be there for our kids.