



Candidate for Minnesota House District 39B

Jun 8, 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 been actively present in Columbia Heights schools in several meaningful ways. Most concretely, I have been dropping off food at Highland Elementary School for families affected by Operation Metro Surge — something I do two to three times a month. This isn't a photo opportunity. It is a commitment I show up for consistently, because I believe elected officials should be present not just during campaigns or crises, but in the ongoing, unglamorous work of showing up.

Last month I attended a gratitude event at Columbia Heights High School honoring those who supported the school district during the occupation. It was a meaningful moment — a chance to recognize the educators, community members, and neighbors who held things together when families needed them most.

Beyond these visits, as Mayor I work closely with the school superintendent and school board to ensure that every elected official in our city sees themselves as a partner to our schools. When a community's children are under threat, that is not just an education issue — it is a leadership issue. I take that seriously, and I show up accordingly.

I am not coming to the Legislature to talk about this community. I am from it. I know these children. And I will fight as though their futures depend on it — because they do.

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?

In addition to supporting progressive taxes on the wealthiest Minnesotans and the largest corporations, I also support and will promote the passage of the Permanent School Fund's increased payout on the November ballot. Schools must be fully funded, teachers and staff must be paid living wages, buildings must be well maintained, and students must have the support they need in place in order to learn and thrive.

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

Standardized test scores broadly can be used as a tool to compare overall comprehension or performance, however they must be considered along with school funding and support. Research over time has shown that these test scores are negatively impacted by many factors including socioeconomic status, neurodivergence, and other unmet supports. From a systems standpoint, a school or district with consistently lower scores would indicate that there is a lack of support or an unmet need that needs to be addressed.

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 agree that students should be free to read any age appropriate material that interests them and that being exposed to a wide range of characters and backgrounds will only better prepare them for the wider world. Minnesota must fight to protect all of our students rights big and small, including their freedom to access all age appropriate books and media.

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?

Columbia Heights is ground zero for what happens when federal immigration enforcement disregards the safety of children. Operation Metro Surge didn't just happen near our community — it happened inside our schools. School buses were pulled over and raided. Federal agents used chemical irritants on students and staff during dismissal. Children were taken to Texas detention centers without notice. Six Columbia Heights students were sent to Dilley. A 5-year-old was detained at Walmart. A 4th grader was separated from her family.

As Mayor, I watched this happen in real time. As someone who volunteers at an elementary school and works closely with our school board, I heard the fear from students, teachers, and families directly. Our district now faces a \$3.6 million budget shortfall — partly driven by enrollment lost during the surge. Multiple students are now homeless. Families had to choose between safety and stability. The trauma endures long after the agents left.

In the Minnesota House, I will prioritize:

Safe school zones with real enforcement. No child should fear being detained walking to class. Minnesota needs state law — not just resolutions — that protects students and families near school campuses.

Fixing the compensatory revenue formula. The shift to direct certification is leaving low-income children behind even though the need hasn't changed. I will fight to fix it before districts lose teachers they cannot afford to lose.

Mental health and trauma-informed schools. You cannot teach a traumatized child without first helping them feel safe. I will champion sustained mental health funding as a core education investment.