



## Candidate for Minnesota House District 41A

Jun 23, 2026

### Yes/No questions

**1. Have you visited a public school in your district in the past year?**

No

**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?**

No

**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?**

N/A

**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?**

I support both moving away from the reliance on local levies/taxation to fund education. Tying school funding to locality results in segregated school funding, with the wealthier/more privileged districts hoarding access resources while the less privileged don't have enough. No child should have their education or future decided by how wealthy their zip-code, county, or school district is. Minnesota should move away from raising school finances locally and move towards the state government providing education funding directly. To further break the realities that segregate schools I support increasing school district size and broadening open enrolment options across schools, as long as such plans are well designed and do not cause disruption or problems to students.

I also support increasing taxation on the wealthiest corporations and households to raise revenue to be invested in education. Such taxation would include: the state individual income tax; taxes on individual wealth (such as a land value tax or capital gains taxes); the Corporation Franchise Tax; and progressive consumption taxes on the richest households. These funds would go directly to the state, which would then distribute the funds on a per-pupil basis adjusted for equity and the needs of the school/school district (for example, special education needs). In a proper plan, this would include increasing the baseline per pupil funding formula, to improve student outcomes and make up for past underfunding. I am open to multiple options for how to do this, and am interested in reaching out to EPIC for information about which options are best.

As a final note, I also support indexing future school funding to inflation to ensure that our education funding's real value does not decline automatically. This would build certainty into the funding process, and that would also let schools, teachers, and students make better plans for the future.

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

I believe that few decisions at the individual or system level should be decided by standardized test scores. While the evidence indicates that standardized test scores do provide some useful information, it can be incomplete and imperfect. No single measure should be relied upon exclusively to decide how hiring, disciplinary, or student education decisions are made, especially not standardized test scores.

**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 strongly support students having access to age-appropriate books that cover the full breath of both America's and Minnesota's diversity. All members of our community are real members of our community, and none of our history should be erased or suppressed just because it makes some uncomfortable. Luckily, here in Minnesota we passed a freedom to read law, 134.51 "Access to Library Materials and Rights Protected", in 2024. But while this was a good start, subsequent developments show that it is not enough. Despite it being illegal, book banning has continued in Minnesota, with the problem moving to quieter versions of the practice so as to avoid scrutiny.

To address the continued problem of book bans, I support the following measures. First, require that schools adopt a uniform, publicly available policy for handling challenges from community members who are concerned about a book's content. These policies must ensure transparency in how decisions are being made, and require that decisions are made by licensed media professionals and not political bodies. Second, I support restricting the usage of third-party software that rates books in making decisions about which books stay on shelves, while requiring that those decisions are instead made by licensed media professionals. Third, requiring school districts to conspicuously display information about the law regarding book bans, and who students or community members can make reports to if they fear books are being banned for inappropriate reasons. This information would be required to be displayed both digitally on the school's website and physically in the libraries/media centers of schools. And fourth, providing funding to the state to provide educational materials to students and appropriate school workers about the law regarding book bans.



**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?**

First and foremost, I would listen to these communities about what they need in order to recover. Operation Metro Surge is so recent that we do not know the full extent of its impact yet. Therefore, continuing to study how the communities were impacted by the federal operation, and prioritizing listening to them about how they were affected, is of great importance.

Second, I support the state government allocating extra funding to the schools or school districts impacted to at the very least make whole the financial damage done to them by the federal operation and to provide for mental health care needed by impacted members of these schools' communities. Furthermore, appropriate funds to support families whose finances have been negatively impacted by Operation Metro Surge should be provided, to ensure that their students' education is not disrupted indirectly through secondary effects of the federal operation.

Third, I support state legislation that would do the following: prohibit federal agents from conducting immigration enforcement actions in K-12 schools, healthcare facilities, places of worship, or other sensitive locations; prohibit federal immigration authorities from staging their activities on school grounds, in school parking lots, or within close distance of either; restricting federal law enforcement from wearing face masks to obscure identity; requiring law enforcement personnel to clearly display their name, agency, badge number, or any other appropriate identifying information; restricting the use of unmarked vehicles in federal law enforcement actions; and creating state court cause of action to bring lawsuits against federal officials for violating their rights. Furthermore, my support for measures protecting students against federal intrusion into Minnesota schools is not limited to these specific actions. We should take whatever steps necessary and proper to protect Minnesotans and their schools from abuses by the federal government.