

Candidate for Minnesota Senate District 50

Jun 23, 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 an educator for 30 years. My journey started in classrooms in Colombia, and then I moved to Minnesota, where I continued it through graduate school and the completion of my teaching licensure requirements. In the last 27 years, I have been in Minnesota classrooms as a paraprofessional, substitute teacher, interpreter, family outreach worker, and teacher. In the last ten years, I have taught Spanish to immersion students at Saint Louis Park High School.

Another area of education in which I have been involved is serving as a school board member for Bloomington Public Schools. I was the first Latina elected to the BPS board in 2011. I have been elected four times. Being a school board member for almost 15 years has given me insight into governance and an understanding of education funding. Throughout the years, I have actively participated in legislative advocacy at the state and federal levels. I was chair of the legislative committee for BPS for eight years. As an educator, I recognize the difficulties of the Minnesota education system, the workload and burnout, I understand the financial challenges, and I empathize and relate with educators. I also have seen the struggles and challenges of our families, especially in immigrant, BIPOC, and marginalized communities. I am informed about education through my own experience in the classroom and on a governing body, and this will be a strong asset I will bring to the legislature.

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?

Yes, I agree with raising revenue from the very wealthiest corporations. Those corporations are profiting at the expense of the hard-working class, and I think that taking this step is an equitable way to ensure that our society supports our new generations without burdening school districts or raising taxes on people.

I will support passing the Trust Lands amendment to increase revenue for school districts. I will participate in efforts to educate the public on the importance of passing this amendment in November. However, it is essential to ensure that this does not mean the state government stops taking responsibility for current funding methods and relies solely on the additional Trust Lands revenue. This is a topic to explore in depth.

I support increasing revenue that matches inflation. For several years, inflation has not been fully accounted for in the formula, leaving school districts with a significant financial challenge. This HAS to be fixed.

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

Standardized test scores should not be used to punish schools. While the test serves as a baseline for determining students' levels, it does not effectively or accurately measure students' knowledge or intelligence. Those tests take too much time away from meaningful learning, and they do not provide students with meaningful learning.

As a school board member for Bloomington Public Schools, I have always supported our district's position on this type of testing and its advocacy at the legislature to move into a system that is more reliable and that is used to inform educators with useful data about teaching and learning practices that are relevant and based on students' needs as learners and individuals. The education system needs a reform that aligns with the needs and real life of the current world.

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?

Protection comes from actions. Words are not enough. As a school board member, I know that actions are only possible through policies/laws. In my role as a board member, one of the challenges faced in recent years has been the constant presence of groups that have tried to remove several books from our school libraries. Our school board stood strong, and while we listened and followed an established book review process, we continued to support our students to ensure they would have access to books with the content described in this question. As a legislator, I will continue to support libraries, school districts, and students in their right to education. My record on education and governance has been based on actions that protect the rights of our school community.

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?

As an educator and Latina immigrant, I witnessed the struggles of our students and families, and I also felt scared and vulnerable during the hardest months of this Operation. I supported students and families. While this is not the only reason I am running for the Senate seat in SD50, one way I can support education and our BIPOC community is through representation. I want to bring my voice and my knowledge of what the past year felt like for our children and for us as educators. We need legislators who can listen to our communities not only with empathy but with true cultural understanding. I am running to bring that perspective and proximity to our community to the legislature.

In addition to the impact of Operation Metro Surge, several of our immigrant students experienced trauma before coming to the United States or while trying to cross the border. The mental health struggles are complex to understand, and they are very challenging. I strongly support funding for mental health providers, social workers, and intervention support staff in our schools.