



## Candidate for Minnesota Senate District 56

Jun 9, 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?**

Eastview High School: this was a town hall about school safety with the National Honor Society students. They had incredibly insightful questions, especially about gun violence and the role tech and social media plays in their lives. There was one moment that stuck out to me: an administrator expressed support for moving back to paper, pencil and books and the students stood up and cheered. I've been working on EdTech legislation and this showed me there was more support among students than I had assumed!

Eagan High School: I attended the Students Demand Action rally at Eagan High School and met with student leaders about their concerns and how their elected officials can support them

Shakopee High School: Student ambassador tour and student panel to see the exciting work happening at Shakopee High School

Westview Elementary: I read a book to Mr. Thies' classroom and learned from the students more about what they like about school (recess, lunch, reading) and what they would want to change (longer recess, both more math and less math).

Rosemount Elementary School: ISD 196 Legislative Advisory Council meeting & tour of the school — very informative on the priorities of the district for the legislative session. This also happened during the height of Metro Surge and was a good chance to meet in-person and learn about the unique challenges arising from it.

Emerald Trail Elementary School: Ribbon cutting to open the school, meet the principal and teachers, take a tour, and leave a message to future students in the time capsule

**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?**

Our tax code must be overhauled to restore fairness and to accurately reflect the economy we live in. Our tax code primarily taxes goods and largely does not tax services, but this makes our tax code unstable in an economy that is more service-based than goods-based. Additionally, there are large corporate tax breaks and loop holes that must be closed so everyone is paying their fair share. To achieve this, I have chief-authored the following bills:

1. SF 5231: Repeal the tax exemption for data centers and repeal the \$250 million cut to special education passed in 2025
2. SF 5091: Repeal the tax exemption for the major airlines and direct the funding to Safe Schools Revenue, specifically to pay costs for licensed school counselors, licensed school nurses, licensed school social workers, licensed school psychologists, and licensed alcohol and substance use disorder counselors
3. SF 3425: taxing social media companies
4. SF 3397 & SF 3332: Imposes a tax on business-to-business services (currently they are tax-exempted), like corporations who hire outside attorneys; marketing; consulting etc.
5. SF 3311: increasing the corporate tax rate if the federal government reduces it, and raising the tax rate the same amount so corporations pay the same amount in taxes, it just comes to the state. This bill exists because in the 2017 Trump tax cut bill, the corporate tax rate was reduced from 35% to 21%. Corporations weren't even asking for a rate cut that steep –it's absurd. So my bill is meant to capture corporate taxes if they reduce their federal tax rate any more.
6. SF 5077: repealing the tax exemption for VIP preferred seating in athletic stadiums.

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

I believe standardized test scores are one point of data that we can use to understand our education system, but I don't think system-level decisions in education should be based solely off of standardized test scores. For example, the currently Literacy Aid formula rewards schools who have students with high proficiency, which is the wrong way to support literacy in schools. I have a bill to make Literacy Aid dollars go out based on poverty indicators, ELL population, with the remaining percentage going to schools with struggling readers. Additionally, I am looking to reduce standardized testing, so the fewer decisions based on test scores the better. For example, as the READ Act becomes fully implemented, I believe we can phase out the third grade reading MCA's.

**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 was proud to support the Book Ban Ban bill and as the chief author of the READ Act, ensured our highly aligned curriculum reflects the diversity of Minnesota. To protect Minnesota students' freedom to read, we must ensure our laws prohibit removing books from schools and public libraries based on the beliefs of a few people; fully fund our school and public libraries; and keep our standards inclusive.

**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?**

This recovery will be ongoing and take many years. For students & families, we must invest in more school-linked mental health and make resources available to families through our schools, as they remain one of the last few trusted places for vulnerable families. This session, I supported pausing standardized testing, knowing that the massive disruption to learning makes those tests not reliable, especially with the switch to the new MCAs. For educators and support staff, affordable health insurance will go a long way to ensuring they have access to mental health treatment and ongoing support for trauma. Last, we must make space and time to grieve collectively and heal publicly. We cannot continue on and go back to "business as usual" when we have not dedicated time to collective healing.