

Candidate for Minnesota Senate District 62

Jun 15, 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?

Yes, I have had the opportunity to visit Whittier and Green Central in my district for one-time “Principal for a Day” events! Both days were incredible opportunities to interface with the MPS community, including the daily realities of students and staff alike. I appreciate the firsthand look into MPS schools and the opportunity to step into the shoes of principals across MPS. Every time I step foot in a public school classroom, I see the time, energy, care, love, and resources that our educators and teachers pour into their classes and their classrooms.

This past year, I have also visited South High, Roosevelt, and Washburn High School, as well as Humboldt in St. Paul, and other public schools in the Twin Cities metro area -- all sites hosting our local DFL caucuses and endorsing conventions. Although all MPS three sites (South High, Roosevelt, Washburn) were hosting Senate District 62 DFL Endorsing convenings, and all three serve students who reside in SD62, they are technically geographically located in SD63.

As a State Legislator who represents countless MPS families, I believe that equitable and universal access to public education is a fundamental human right that needs to be addressed holistically if we are going to reverse declining enrollment. As the Chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee, I have been a longtime champion for both K-12 public school funding and higher education access. I am proud to have worked alongside advocates and families to bring Tuition-Free College to our state. Next session, I hope to advance Universal Childcare legislation in the Senate, and do everything we can to invest in MPS.

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?

It is imperative that we grow Minnesota's tax base to reduce the burden on working families, and to prepare for further cuts from a hostile Trump administration. Our residents deserve excellent public services and we have to ensure the state has the revenue needed to deliver on our shared vision. We need to look at creative solutions. We can and should pass a fifth tier tax at the state level, and make sure that the ultra wealthy millionaire and billionaire class in Minnesota pays their fair share of taxes to ensure the state is adequately resourced and able to provide the critical support and programs that working class Minnesotans depend on in the face of a hostile federal government.

I will continue my work at the State Legislature to work towards allowing local municipalities such as the City of Minneapolis to institute a local option income tax to ensure the wealthy pay their fair share. I will also continue partnering with the Minnesota Department of Revenue and Hennepin County to ensure residents are educated on existing property tax relief programs. Our elected officials should explore opportunities for public development and ownership that could increase the tax base while ensuring a broadly beneficial use of space, and implement creative solutions like a commercial vacancy tax to address vacant storefronts and a land value tax to incentivize development of underutilized parcels. I will also protect taxpayer dollars by avoiding unaffordable subsidies for private, for-profit facilities, like stadiums, arenas, and convention centers.

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

At the individual level, I think personalized interventions for students by Math and Reading Interventionists is of utmost importance. Teachers work with students 1:1 to analyze specific skills and identify learning gaps, which hopefully leads to targeted remedial support, smaller focus groups, an additional class in that subject, or push-in / pull-out interventions. Standardized testing should not be the end all be all tool to understand any student's progress or comprehension but rather a single tool in the toolbox.

I think individual level test scores can be used to signal or identify students of interest, etc. Decisions about tutoring or support courses should not be made solely based on standardized testing, but those scores can help students and administrators find those students that may need help as a first step in the decision making process. As a diagnostic tool, test scores and classroom observations are helpful in identifying the need for specialized learning interventions or English language learner services.

On a systems-level, raw test scores are not that helpful in comparing teachers or schools against each other, but growth scores and the differences between student scores one point of measurement to the next can be useful in determining what individualized classroom wide or school wide or district-wide initiatives have positively or negatively impacted student learning in a specific subject or area.

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?

We need to do everything in our power to ensure that these far-right politicians and special interest groups, and monied interests do not successfully bring their book banning to Minnesota as they have in other parts of our country. I will use the power of the bully pulpit to hold my colleagues accountable in other levels of government to ensure that our public school students have the freedom to read. I believe that our incredible librarians and teachers have a good sense of what belongs in our public school libraries, and I trust them to do their jobs and adjudicate the texts they bring into our schools and libraries.

One idea, is that parents who may take issue with certain texts or selections could bring their concerns to a panel for discussion. The State of Minnesota could require districts to have hearing panels composed of a combination of teachers and parents, evaluating the appropriateness of certain books that certain stakeholders may take issue with, and at what age those are appropriate or not. I believe that when big monied groups seek to apply pressure onto administrations to ban texts, districts, administrators, and school boards should not be allowed to ban books outright unless there is a fair hearing and there is a process.

I am committed to electing a slate of champions onto the Minneapolis School Board this cycle and am eager to get out on the doors across Senate District 62 in the months to come, to campaign alongside them.

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?

Throughout Operation Metro Surge, my staff and myself were committed to doing everything in our power to organize on the ground and get direct aid to families sheltering in place, and practicing Mutual Aid by raising funds for healthcare, housing, food, transportation, and everything in between. At a time when the State Legislature had not convened for session yet, and compounding crises were impacting the most marginalized and vulnerable residents of SD62, as neighbors, we stepped up and supported MPS families with rent relief, patrolled the streets of South Minneapolis, participated in constitutional observation, and coordinated no-contact grocery drop offs.

The response from every single level of government in Minnesota was too little too late. We can and must do more to support our public school communities in the wake of Operation Metro Surge. Next session, I hope we are able to win a trifecta so that we can move the big bold pieces of legislation that were not able to get across the finish line this session: more rent relief and monetary supports for small business and families impacted, reparations, and protecting all of the wins we have achieved in sessions past such as preserving access to free school based meals year-round. We also need to fight to restore healthcare for undocumented Minnesotans.

In the State Senate, I will continue to fight to uplift our students and educators by fighting for policies like the Northstar Promise Act, like I have been as the Chair of the Higher Education committee, I will also advocate tirelessly to fully fund social services and essential programs that all Minnesotans depend on, on the Human Services and Health & Human Services committees. I am also proud to be on the Committee on State and Local Government - where I have worked to resource our city, and secure funding for important bonding and infrastructure projects in Minneapolis. Defending our most marginalized and vulnerable neighbors from ICE is a top priority of mine, that is why I am currently championing policies like The Safety, Trust, Accountability, and Respect (STAR) Act (SF4176/HF3924), which aims to restrict state and local resources from being used for federal civil immigration enforcement.