

BETTER SCHOOLS FOR A BETTER MINNESOTA

“Taking what’s good and making it better”

A 7-Point Plan for Achieving Excellence

1. Funding Education for the Future

- Invest in Early Childhood and All-Day Kindergarten
- Invest in strategies that close the achievement gap and target resources to the classroom
- Establish a Governor’s Commission on Better School Funding

2. Better Early Childhood Education

- Target All-Day Kindergarten
- Expand existing K-12 system into a comprehensive pre-K–12 system
- Implement clearly defined school readiness standards

3. Raise the Bar – Close the Gap

- Set accountability targets to close achievement gaps
- Establish ***Governor’s Award for Excellence in Education***
- Establish ***Governor’s Achievement Gap Innovation Fund***

4. Reading Well by 3rd Grade

- Launch Statewide Literacy Campaign
- Set school accountability targets to ensure all students are reading well by Grade 3
- Adopt Pre-K–3 Literacy Standards

5. Support Teaching for Better Schools

- Create alternative pathways to teacher licensure that maintain quality
- Establish a statewide teacher performance evaluation and development system and create support networks
- Support early childhood teacher observation and development

6. Better Testing for Better Results

- Develop assessments *for* learning that measure growth
- Establish a Test Reduction Task Force
- Examine new accountability measures based on growth that fairly assess and report student and school progress

7. A Department of Education that Provides Educational Leadership and Support

- Reposition Minnesota Department of Education to support teachers, schools and districts
- Reauthorize **Statewide Early Childhood Advisory Council** and reestablish **Children’s Cabinet**
- Charge Commissioner of Education with leadership of early childhood initiatives