Just the Facts

Legislative landscape

Minnesota State Senate
- 67 state senators: 39 DFL and 28 Republican
- 7 incumbent Senate Republicans lost
- No DFL incumbents lost
- There are 23 new state senators: 14 DFL and 9 Republicans
- 60% of the State Senate is serving in their 1st or 2nd term

Minnesota State House
- 134 state representatives: 73 DFL and 61 Republican members
- 9 incumbent House Republicans lost
- 42 new state representatives: 27 DFL and 15 Republicans
- 48% of the State House is serving in their 1st or 2nd term

Congressional wealth (Center for Responsive Politics, 2001)
- $13.9 million was the average wealth of a U.S. Senator
- $6.5 million was the average wealth of a U.S. Representative

State Budget Issues
- Higher revenues and lower spending created a $1.3 billion balance in FY 2012-13
- Current state law requires all revenues above expenditures pay back the K-12 school funding shift. The remaining school shift is approximately $1.1 billion and that is the projected budget shortfall for the 2014-15 budget.
- Governor Dayton’s E-12 proposed budget would provide $15.524 for E-12 education.
- Among the Governor’s recommendations higher income taxes for high income earners, a corporate tax rate cut, expanding sales taxes but reducing the rate.

Academic Achievement

ACT
- Average Minnesota ACT score: 22.7 compared to National ACT score which is 21.

Mathematics
• MN grade 4 average NAEP score math: 249 (National avg. 239)
• MN grade 8 average NAEP score math: 294 (National avg. 282)
• Minnesota is one of 11 education systems worldwide with Math scores significantly higher than the USA.
• Minnesota 2011 TIMMS Math assessment score of 545 is significantly higher than Minnesota’s 1995 score of 518.
• The only 6 education systems with TIMMS scores significantly higher in Math than Minnesota are Korea (613), Singapore (611), Chinese Taipei (609), Hong Kong (586), Japan (570) and Massachusetts (561).

Reading
• MN grade 4 average NAEP score reading: 223 (National avg. 220)
• MN grade 8 average NAEP score reading: 270 (National avg. 262)

Science
• Minnesota is one of 12 education systems scoring significantly higher in TIMMS 8th-grade science assessment than the USA.
• Minnesota’s 2011 score of 553 is significantly higher than 2007 score of 539.
• The only 5 education systems with a higher percentage of 8th-graders reaching Advanced than Minnesota are Singapore (40%), Massachusetts-USA (24%), Chinese Taipei-CHN (24%), Republic of Korea, (20%), and Japan (18%).
• Only 2 participating TIMMS assessment education systems score significantly higher than Minnesota in 8th-grade science.
• Minnesota ranked second in TIMMS Biology Knowing and Physics Reasoning among the states participating as individual entities.

Graduating Graduation Rates (Information taken from the StarTribune, January 22, 2013 Washington Post article by Lyndsey Layton.)
• Nationally 78 percent of students earned a diploma within four years of starting high school. That is the highest percent in nearly 40 years.
• In 2010 38 states had higher graduation rates and 12 states’ rates remained flat.
• Minnesota’s graduation rose from 75.5 percent in 2010 to 76.9 in 2011. (MN Dept. of Education)
• According to America’s Promise Alliance, high school graduates earn $130,000 more over their lifetimes than their peers who drop out of school.
• Graduation rates have improved for every race and ethnicity but gaps remain.
  ▪ The number of Hispanic students graduating on time has risen 10 percentage points over the past five years to 71.4 percent nationally.
  ▪ One four pupils at public elementary schools is now Hispanic.
  ▪ Hispanics are now the largest minority group making up about 16.5 percent of the U.S. population.
  ▪ 93 percent of Asian students graduate in four years.
  ▪ 83 percent of white students graduate in four years.
  ▪ 69.1 percent of Native American and Alaska Native students graduate in four years.
  ▪ 66.1 percent of African-American students graduate in four years.
The Economy

• “The beauty of our district [the Ninth Federal Reserve District] is a pretty highly educated and healthy workforce. That’s a very solid foundation and can drive the economy forward.” – Toby Madden, Ninth Federal Reserve Bank
• “Historically there has been a correlation between the dropout rate going down when the economy is weaker.” – Jack Buckley, commissioner of the National Center for Education Statistics

Excellence

• “The way to gain a good reputation is to endeavor to be what you desire to appear.” – Socrates
• “If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way.” –Martin Luther King Jr/
• “People simply feel better about themselves when they’re good at something.” -- Stephen R. Covey
• “We don’t get a chance to do that many things, and every one should be really excellent. Because this is our life.” – Steve Jobs