Minnesota’s Promise
World-Class Schools, World-Class State
“Public education in Minnesota is at a crossroads.

Taking the third road…

Taking the second road…

Taking the first road…

Minnesota’s Promise seeks to put our state on the third road, down which schools and communities can walk together.”

—Minnesota’s Promise, World-class schools, world-class state, January 2008
THE STATUS QUO IS NOT AN OPTION

2 trends that tell us education must be different tomorrow than it is today.

1. Growth of the global knowledge economy

2. Demographic Changes
   - Students of Color
   - Students whose first language is not English
   - Students who live in poverty
2 specific challenges guide schools as we respond to these trends.

1. Close the achievement gaps between Minnesota’s students and other students in the highest-performing nations in the world.

2. Close the gaps that exist among our students right here in Minnesota.
A Vision for the Future

10 Essential elements
of a high performing educational system.

1. Early Childhood Education
2. Educator Quality
3. Academic Rigor
4. Family and Community Involvement
5. Multicultural Community
6. Data and Research
7. Funding
8. Time
9. Special Education
10. Health and Wellness
1. Early Childhood Education

**Investment in educational success starts early**

**State:**
- support targeted services from birth through all day kindergarten options.
- Connect families to services
- Collect and disseminate data

**District:**
- Conduct early outreach
- Provide professional development
- Sustain early gains

**School:**
- Align early childhood programs with elementary education
- Locate early childhood and elementary programs in the same building when possible
2. Educator Quality

Great teachers and principals are recruited, prepared, supported, and retained.

**State:**
- Recruit the best
- Develop leaders
- Establish incentives

**District:**
- Connect preparation to practice
- Enhance induction programs
- Grow internal leadership development programs for principals and other key positions.
- Create career ladders
- Empower leaders

**School:**
- Strengthen schools as workplaces
- Make professional development part of everyday life for teachers administrators and other school staff.
- Celebrate!
3. Academic Rigor

All academic roads are rigorous and all lead to higher education.

**State:**
- Raise expectations
- Align expectations
- Spark innovation

**District:**
- Teach 21st century skills
- Support planning and guidance
- Tap the power of technology
- Ensure access

**School:**
- Reach out for rigor
- Create safety nets
- Raise the floor
- Engage the community
4. Family and Community Involvement

Families and communities are full partners in education

**State:**
- Expand parent education
- Engage employers
- Support informed choice

**District:**
- Build the infrastructure that promotes connections between home and school.

**School:**
- Keep parents informed and involved
- Share leadership and decision making
- Build community and establish partnerships
5. Multicultural Community

All cultures are included and supported, and connections are made across local and global cultural divides.

**State:**
- Fund foreign languages
- Support cultural history
- Promote global awareness
- Make global comparisons

**District:**
- Recruit staff the changing demographics
- Enhance Educators’ cultural competence
- Make cultural understanding a part of the curriculum

**School:**
- Embrace diversity as an asset
- Make the school a welcoming place for everyone
- Monitor program participation
- Support adult learning

All cultures are included and supported, and connections are made across local and global cultural divides.
6. Data and Research

Educators use data and research to improve teaching and learning every day.

**State:**
- Focus on growth
- Build a data collection
- Promote benchmarking

**District:**
- Develop holistic measures
- Make connections among sets of data
- Monitor trends

**School:**
- Make data-driven decisions
- Use frequent assessments
- Help parents become informed about education
7. Funding

Schools are provided with funding that is predictable and sufficient to produce world-class performance.

**State:**
- Define adequacy
- Develop and fund a new formula

**District:**
- Ensure equity
- Invest in leaders’ budgetary skills
- Advance accountability

**School:**
- Emphasize outcomes
- See the big picture
8. Time

Schedules and calendars are designed to help all students reach high standards

**State:**
- Lengthen the school year
- Emphasize outcomes

**District:**
- Lengthen the school day
- Create year-round schools
- Provide professional development

**School:**
- Rethink the day
- Connect with families and community
- Reduce distractions
9. Special Education

Services for students with disabilities are proactive, effective, efficient, and adequately funded

**State:**
- Emphasize outcomes, not processes
- Develop and implement a new approach to funding
- Share best practices
- Streamline paperwork
- Advocate at the federal level

**District:**
- Build capacity
- Recruit and assign the best
- Manage medical solutions

**School:**
- Intervene early
- Mainstream when it makes sense
- Discontinue services when goals are achieved
10. Health and Wellness

Parents and other stakeholders ensure that students come to school physically and mentally ready to learn.

State:
- Provide health care
- Fund school services
- Disseminate best practices

District:
- Help students eat right
- Invest in mental health

School:
- Connect with families
- Sustain physical education
“Minnesota has the potential to join the ranks of the world’s highest-performing educational systems, but both research and experience make it clear that to realize that goal, we need a statewide strategy that is serious, systemic, and supported across political, economic, and cultural lines.”

Kent Pekel, Executive Director
College Readiness Consortium
University of Minnesota