

WANTED: Prepared Workforce
NEEDED: Education Reforms

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Join our Action Alert e-mail list
- Build relationships with your state legislators
- Meet and have conversations with your school board

CONTACT

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VISIT

For updates go to www.mnchamber.com/priorities/education_policy.cfm

CALL TO ACTION ALERTS!

Name

Company

E-mail

City

Your Priorities: *(Please check all that apply.)*

- Effective teacher 3rd grade literacy
 High school grad requirements All of the above
 Other _____

Thank you for your input!

WHY MINNESOTA K-12 REFORM IS NOT OPTIONAL

#1: Persistent achievement gap

Minnesota continues to have one of the largest achievement gaps in the country. The gap is prevalent both racially and socioeconomically.

4th grade NAEP mathematics test average scores

White students: 255

Black students: 227 → 28 points lower than White students

Hispanic students: 232 → 23 points lower than White students

8th grade NAEP reading test average scores

Non-free and reduced lunch students: 276

Free and reduced lunch students: 252 → 24 point difference

#2: Demographics changing

Minnesota's demographics are expected to change considerably by 2020.

The populations that are expected to grow are on the "wrong" side of the achievement gap. We must find a way to educate all students.

#3: Future workforce

In 2018, 70 percent of all jobs in Minnesota will require some postsecondary training beyond high school.

There's already a growing disconnect between the jobs available and Americans who can fill them. We must prepare high school graduates for a role in the workforce.

PRIORITY #1:

Effective teacher in every classroom

We know that Minnesota is filled with great teachers, but there are also some teachers that need improvement. However, we have no way of recognizing either!

Why this is important?

- Second to parents, an effective teacher is the most important factor to a child's success
- The effects of teachers on student achievement are both additive and cumulative

What needs to be done:

- Require districts to use a standardized teacher evaluation that includes student achievement data
- Create alternative pathways for teacher licensure
- Create incentives for highly effective teachers to go to the schools that have the most at-risk students

PRIORITY #2:

Require reading at grade level by the time a student exits 3rd grade

Through 3rd grade, children learn to read. After 3rd grade, they read to learn. In order to succeed in all subjects, students must be literate.

Why this is important?

- Fourth-graders performing at the basic level on NAEP testing directly correlate to high school graduation rates

What needs to be done:

- Create effective early education programs
- Track reading progression beginning in kindergarten
- Require teachers to PASS basic reading skills test before entering the classroom

PRIORITY #3:

Increase high school graduation requirements

When students graduate from high school, they must be prepared to enter college or the workforce.

Why this is important?

- In 2009, 75% of students graduated (in 4-years)
- 1/3 of entering college students enroll in remedial courses

What needs to be done:

- Increase graduation rigor
- Reinstate math GRAD requirement
- Set passing scores for tests

