



*"The stability of a republican form of government depends mainly upon the intelligence of the people; therefore, **it is the duty of the legislature to establish a general and uniform system of public schools. The legislature shall make such provisions by taxation or otherwise as will secure a thorough and efficient system of public schools throughout the state.***

*- Minnesota Constitution: Article XIII, Section 1*

The challenging economic times along with the long and short-term structural budget imbalance have led Minnesota into unprecedented times. Yet the economic engine that drives Minnesota's prosperity has and always will be a highly educated work force which must be protected to ensure a thriving future for our children and Minnesota.

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## 2011 Legislative Platform

- **Education funding must NOT be reduced to balance the state budget.**
- **Decrease district expenditures by eliminating mandates that are not fully funded and mandates that do not directly improve student outcomes.**
- **Increase referendum equalization factors for taxpayer fairness.**
- **Re-establish the General Education Levy to stabilize education funding.**
- **No additional levy authority can be authorized unless it is fully equalized.**
- **To ensure equity across school districts, the referendum levy cap must remain at its current level.**