



CREATING LIFELONG LEARNING FOR OUR CHILDREN THROUGH INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION

“As someone educated in the public school system, from kindergarten through college, I know the importance and the value of investing in teachers, high-quality schools, and our children. My parents also knew the value of a good education. When I was growing up, they forced me and my siblings to do extra homework, even during the summer months. Not every parent has the time or ability to help a child achieve their full potential. That’s why real investments in education can pay back such significant dividends.”

– Ashwin Madia

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- Early childhood education helps our children become lifelong learners. Art Rolnick’s research has shown a return of 16 percent on early education investments, with 80 percent of the benefits going to the public in the form of more successful long-term educational performance. That’s a better return than most economic development projects.

FIX NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND (NCLB)

- Since 2002 (when NCLB was enacted), Minnesota has received \$712 million less than we were promised by the federal government. In Congress, Ashwin Madia will make sure that NCLB is fixed and fully-funded. Madia will also work to give our teachers the ability to create innovative and relevant lesson plans while maintaining school accountability, high standards, and teacher effectiveness.
- Currently, NCLB uses only multiple-choice tests to measure student achievement. Madia will work with teachers, administrators, and parents to improve the assessments used to measure student progress so that school districts can focus on improving student achievement. Madia also supports the implementation of a “growth model,” meaning that the achievement of the *same* students would be tracked from year-to-year. NCLB punishes poor-performing schools by cutting their funding. Madia will improve NCLB so that schools that need improvement receive support rather than budget cuts.

FULFILL THE UNMET PROMISE TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) promises an equal education for students with disabilities. This means helping students with disabilities achieve future opportunities, employment, and independent living.

- The IDEA promised states a federal commitment equal to 40% of the law's costs. Currently, the federal government only funds approximately 17% of IDEA costs incurred by Minnesota schools. That shortfall has led to higher property taxes, cuts to education, or both in districts across Minnesota. Madia will continue Jim Ramstad's tradition of opposing unfunded mandates and will work to provide full funding of IDEA.

MAKE COLLEGE AFFORDABLE

- College costs in Minnesota have soared in recent years, with average tuition and fees increasing by 118 percent over ten years at the U of M and by 110 percent at the other public state universities.
- Madia supports consolidating existing education tax credits into a \$4,000 refundable tuition tax credit for every student, regardless of family income. This credit, available at the time of enrollment, will cover two-thirds the cost of tuition at the average public college or university and make community college tuition completely free for most students.
- Today's college loan system is confusing and bureaucratic. Private banks and lenders receive billions in taxpayer-funded subsidies and guarantees even though their loans cost more and provide no greater benefits. Madia will eliminate subsidies for private loans and use the funds for new scholarships and to increase availability of Stafford and Perkins loans.
- To remain competitive on the global stage, the U.S. needs a workforce that can thrive in the innovation economy. Madia will create new scholarships for college students who major in math, science or engineering. Madia will also offer new scholarships to students who commit to four years of public service. He will also make sure Pell grants keep pace with the rising costs of college. Two decades ago, the maximum Pell Grant covered 55% of costs at a public four-year college, compared to just 32% today.
- Madia will challenge private colleges to make higher education affordable for students from middle class families. The endowments of the 12 wealthiest universities now total \$155 billion. Recently, their endowments earned tax-free returns of nearly 20% annually.

NEW COMMITMENTS THAT WON'T BUST THE BUDGET

- Ashwin Madia is a strong supporter of balancing the budget and his education proposals will be budget neutral. His proposals for college affordability cost approximately \$7 billion per year and the full funding of NCLB and IDEA would cost approximately \$14 billion per year.
- Madia would pay for these initiatives by consolidating existing education credits (\$2B); cutting wasteful subsidies for private student loans (\$6B); getting rid of education earmarks (\$2B); and eliminating tax breaks for companies that shift jobs overseas (\$11B).

