

Governor's Education Roundtable Overview

As a former teacher, Governor Walz knows firsthand the importance of ensuring every child has the best education possible – those of every race, income and zip code. Given the challenges of COVID-19 and the aftermath of the death of George Floyd, the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and First Lady knew that creative thinking and bold solutions were needed to set Minnesota on a path forward to ensure we have the best, student-centered education system.

Participants

In the fall of 2020, the Governor convened a roundtable with 22 leaders in education – individuals who care deeply about Minnesota students, educators and families. The following leaders were engaged and co-developed a set of education priorities.

- Alan Page - Former Associate Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court
- Angela Jerabek - Executive Director, BARR Center
- Astein Osei – Superintendent, St. Louis Park Public Schools
- Christine Osorio – Superintendent, North St. Paul, Maplewood, Oakdale Schools
- Denise Specht – President, Education Minnesota
- DeAnna Hron – Full Service Community School Coordinator, Deer River School District
- Doug Baker – Chairman and CEO, Ecolab
- Heather Starks – President, Minnesota PTA
- Jean Haar – Dean, College of Education, Minnesota State University Mankato
- Jennifer Godinez – Associate Director, Minnesota Education Equity Partnership
- Jodi Altringer – Early Childhood Special Education Teacher and Professional Development Facilitator, MN Centers of Excellence for Young Children with Disabilities
- Joe Hobot – President and CEO, American Indian OIC
- KaYing Yang – Director of Programs and Partnerships, Coalition of Asian American Leaders (CAAL)
- Karen Kelley-Ariwoola – Chief Operating Officer, Northside Achievement Zone
- Mauri Friestleben – Principal, North High School, Minneapolis Public Schools
- Marcela Kostihova – Dean, College of Liberal Arts and School of Education, Hamline University
- Matt Williams – President, Minnesota State College Faculty
- Paul Spies – Professor of Urban Education, Metropolitan State University
- Qorsho Hassan – 2020 Minnesota Teacher of the Year
- R.T. Rybak – CEO and President, The Minneapolis Foundation
- Rebecca Crooks-Stratton – Secretary/Treasurer, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
- Troy Haugen – Director of Career and College readiness, Lakes Country Service Cooperative

Outcome

After consideration of the aspirational goals and bold ideas for change, the roundtable participants came up with the following seven actions as a roadmap for transforming education in the State of Minnesota.

- We need schools to get ready for every child in order for every child to reach their highest potential.
- We need to create standards that address the modern needs of our society, economy and workforce.
- We need to redesign and rebuild systems that are anti-racist and culturally affirming with policy and practice decisions centering on the development of students of color and American Indian students to achieve racially equitable outcomes.
- We need to have a continuous pipeline of anti-racist education professionals, who are reflective of our diverse state and who are prepared and supported for students on day one and throughout their careers.
- We need to prioritize education funding to ensure that every child has a quality learning experience that prepares them for a successful future in a complex and diverse global community.
- We need to ensure that students find relevance and representation in the curriculum, their teachers and their overall educational experience resulting in equitable outcomes.
- We need to mobilize all of us – not just teachers and students – to nurture assets and dismantle barriers so every student and their family has all Minnesotans supporting their academic and personal growth.

More Information: [Read the Governor's Education Roundtable full report.](#)