



## PROPOSED MINNESOTA CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT

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EQUAL RIGHT TO QUALITY  
PUBLIC EDUCATION.

**All children have a fundamental right** to a **quality public education** that **fully prepares them with the skills necessary for participation in the economy, our democracy, and society, as measured against uniform achievement standards set forth by the state.**

It is a **paramount duty of the state to ensure quality public schools that fulfill this fundamental right.**

This clause establishes education as a civil right for all children in Minnesota. Black kids. Brown kids. Indigenous kids. Kids with disabilities. White, poor, wealthy, rural, and urban kids. Not just some kids. All kids.

Currently, our constitution guarantees access to an *adequate* education system. We have seen for decades that *adequate* produces some of the highest disparities in the nation. The new language shifts the focus from the system to children and guarantees a *quality* public education for all children.

This constitutional provision establishes the right, and then the people will define what quality means. What do we—Minnesota’s parents, families, students, educators, business and community leaders, and others—think children need to be successful in the economy, democracy, and society?

The people will also establish standards by which quality is judged. Whatever standards the people create must be applied equally to all students. We must set high expectations for all of Minnesota’s children regardless of race, socioeconomic status, or location.

Right now, only the Legislature has a constitutional role in education. The new language makes “the state”—that is, the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of state government—responsible for ensuring that all children receive a quality public education.

This clause, which includes the requirement to fund quality public schools, makes the public education of our children the highest priority of our state. Nothing would come before it. As a result, the state could not do anything at the expense of quality public education.