



Page Amendment

Minnesota has been facing widening education gaps for decades, and no political progress has been made to close them, as education reforms have been prescriptive and partisan. The Page Amendment is a radically different approach to education reform. The bold, transformative policy will provide a civil right to quality public education to all Minnesota children. By establishing a civil right to quality public education, the amendment becomes a catalyst to action for legislators, who are then compelled to address inequities that are interfering with the newly established civil right. Read on to learn more about the amendment.

What is the Page Amendment?

A proposed amendment to the Minnesota state constitution that will provide a civil right to quality public education to all Minnesota children. Led by former Minnesota Viking and Supreme Court Justice Alan Page, the amendment is supported by a diverse coalition of Minnesota parents, students, educators, and community, education, and nonprofit organizations, plus business leaders. All individuals and groups have a shared interest in addressing our state's widening achievement gaps.

What are education gaps?

The education gap refers to the disparity in academic performance between groups of students. In a recent report for the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank, "[A Statewide Crisis: Minnesota's Education Achievement Gaps](#)", the institution uncovered that the state of Minnesota has **some of the worst education gaps in the nation by race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status**. The education gaps are present in all 87 Minnesota counties and persist over many years. The gaps are measured by three indicators: test scores (or subject proficiency), and graduation and college readiness rates.

- Based on reading test scores across Minnesota, 7-in-10 Black, Hispanic, and American Indian fourth-graders cannot read at a fourth-grade reading level.
- Minnesota ranks 47th in the nation for American Indian students who graduate on time and 50th in the nation for Black and Hispanic students who graduate on time.
- Minnesota has one of the worst college-readiness gaps in the nation by race and ethnicity – only 25% of Black students, 28% of American Indian students, and 26% of Hispanic students are prepared for college. If these students choose to attend a 2-or-4-year institution, they will have to take significantly more remedial classes than their peers.
- Minnesota's education gaps aren't only racial. Average test scores for free or reduced-price lunch students are 30 points less on average in reading and math than their more affluent peers.

How does the Page Amendment address education gaps?

- Minnesota's constitution sets an adequate education standard which has contributed to decades-long education gaps. By injecting quality into our constitutional language, we set a higher standard for education outcomes. The civil right creates a catalyst to action for elected officials, families, and more, to get involved in defining what a quality standard looks like so we can improve education outcomes.



How does the Page Amendment get passed?

- The Page Amendment must be passed in both the House and the Senate, and then be approved by the citizens of Minnesota in a statewide general election. The next statewide general election is November 8, 2022. The amendment and the civil right take effect immediately.

What happens when the Page Amendment gets passed?

- There are three changes that will be made to the current state of education in Minnesota upon passage of the Page Amendment.
 - Change 1: Education will become a paramount duty of the state: The Amendment will clarify and initiate the responsibility to ensure education policy is within the “state.” The “state” encompasses both the legislative and executive branches, and the administration of policy through statutes and rules. When the Legislature and Governor meet for their first legislative session together after the election, they will be crafting policies and a budget with a new mandate from voters to put quality education as the paramount duty of the state.
 - Change 2: The Amendment changes the state mandate from “the uniformity or efficiency of the system” to “the quality of public education offered to people”.
 - Change 3: Families will have an avenue to address inequities: The Amendment will ensure the judicial branch is a place for citizens to seek resolution if their rights are compromised.

Why does Minnesota need the Page Amendment?

- Education attainment is positively correlated with rates of employment, homeownership, lifetime earnings, healthcare attainment and more. Setting children up for success in their adult lives serves all Minnesotans. Living in a state where people are economically, socially, and civically mobile raises the quality of life for all of us.

Page Amendment in the news

- [Article in the Star Tribune on the amendment and the legislative process to getting it passed, plus quotes from supporters of the amendment](#)
- [Column in the Duluth News Tribune from amendment executive director Nevada Littlewolf](#)
- [Column from the board members of Our Children MN in the St. Cloud Times](#)
- [Interview with Neel Kashkari, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, on MPR News with Kerri Miller](#)

Visit the Page Amendment website to find this information and more at ourchildrenmn.com.