Minnesota Senate

Key

- 1. Omnibus education bill
- 2. Early learning access
- 3. Transgender inclusion
- 4. Student expulsion
- 5. Out-of-state licensure
- 6. Student surveys
- 7. Equitable distribution of teachers
- Voted in support of MinnCAN position
- × Voted against MinnCAN position
- Didn't vote
- Not in office
- ★ Legislator received 15 extra credit points, which is included in the score

Senator Major Cities / Party / District 5 1 2 4 6 Jim Abeler Andover, Ramsey / R / 35 [†]40 **Bruce D. Anderson** Buffalo, St. Michael / R /29 58 \circ \times \times Thomas M. Bakk Hermantown, Rice Lake / DFL / 3 72







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*In the House † Reflects partial voting record; did not serve for full biennium

Michelle R. Benson

Senator Major Cities / Party / District												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	*		2016 Score			
Roger C. Chamberlain Lino Lakes, White Bear Lake / R / 38												
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Bobby Joe Champion Minneapolis / DFL / 59												
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7. Equitable distribution of teachers

4. Student expulsion

Voted in support of MinnCAN position

- Not in office
- ★ Legislator received 15 extra credit points, which is included in the score
- × Voted against MinnCAN position Didn't vote

Senator Major Cities / Party / District 5 1 2 6 Score Kari Dziedzic Minneapolis / DFL / 60 72 Chris A. Eaton Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park / DFL / 40 58 Kent Eken Twin Valley, Moorhead / DFL / 4 72 Michelle L. Fischbach Paynesville, Sartell / R / 13 58 Melisa Franzen Edina, Bloomington / DFL / 49 72 Paul E. Gazelka Nisswa, Little Falls / R / 9 58 X **Barb Goodwin** Colombia Heights, Fridley / DFL / 41 72



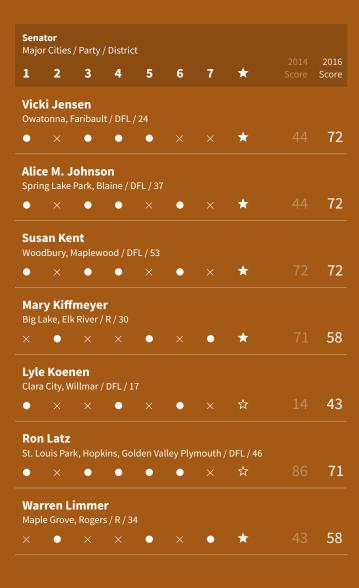
- 1. Omnibus education bill
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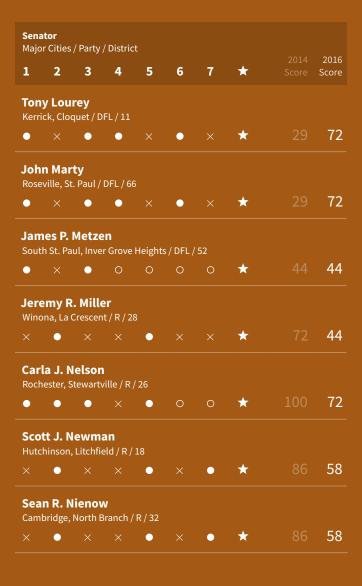
7. Equitable distribution of teachers

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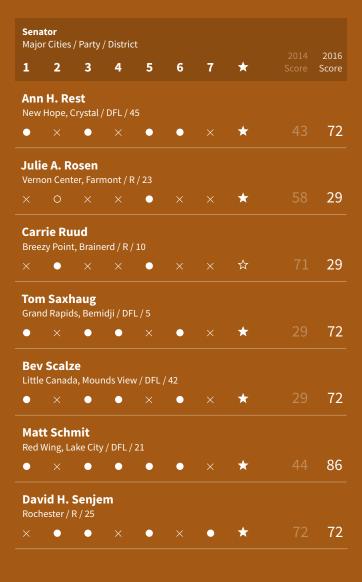
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- 1. Omnibus education bill
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7. Equitable distribution of teachers

5. Out-of-state licensure

- Voted in support of MinnCAN position
- Didn't vote
- ★ Legislator received 15 extra credit points, which is included in the score
- × Voted against MinnCAN position Not in office

Senator Major Cities / Party / District 5 1 2 6 Score **Kathy Sheran** Mankato, North Mankato / DFL / 19 58 Ö **Katie Sieben** Newport, Cottage Grove / DFL / 54 58 **Rod Skoe** Clearbrook, Bemidji / DFL / 2 86 **Dan Sparks** Austin, Albert Lee / DFL / 27 86 LeRoy A. Stumpf Plummer, Thief, River Falls / DFL / 1 58 **Dave Thompson** Lakeville, Farmington / R / 58 58 **David J. Tomassoni** Chishom, Hibbing / DFL / 6 58

Senator Major Cities / Party / District 2 5 1 4 6 **Patricia Torres Ray** Minneapolis, Richfield / DFL / 63 58 **Bill Weber** Luverne, Worthington / R / 22 72 **Torrey N. Westrom** Elbow Lake, Morris / R / 12 58 **Charles W. Wiger** Maplewood, White Bear Lake / DFL / 43 72 Melissa H. Wiklund Bloomington / DFL / 50

72

1. Omnibus education policy and finance bill

(HF844, 2015)
SUPPORTED by MinnCAN; Bill passed

The bill aimed to invest \$400 million in new money to increase the basic per pupil formula by 1.5 percent in year one and 2 percent in year two—still below inflation but higher than original requests from the Governor, the House or Senate. The bill also sought to expand early learning programs targeted to low-income families, maintain and repair school buildings, increase Indian education aid and provide increased access to college in the schools. Beyond monetary investments, the bill also sought to make significant policy fixes, like meaningful and long overdue changes to Minnesota's teacher licensure system to help our schools attract effective, experienced and diverse teachers from other states. It also sought to improve teacher mentorship programs, allow teachers in hard-tostaff schools to receive greater compensation and limit the amount of time students spend on testing. The Senate passed the bill on April 29, 2015.

Democrats: 34 yes, 5 no; Republicans: 5 yes, 23 no.

2. Access to early learning for low-income kids

(Sen. Nelson Amendment to HF844, 2015)
SUPPORTED by MinnCAN; Amendment failed

Current law allows the Minnesota Department of Education to cap the number of scholarship recipients served by any one program. Early learning programs that serve kids must be able to determine the number of low-income students they can adequately serve - not the state. Current law would allow the state to cap programs artificially low to deny kids access to certain programs, which is not the intent of the scholarship legislation. Sen. Carla Nelson offered an amendment to the omnibus education policy bill to remove this authority, ensuring high-quality programs are not forced to turn families away. The Senate rejected the amendment on April 28, 2015.

Democrats: 1 yes, 37 no, 1 not voting;

Republicans: 28 yes, 0 no.

3. Transgender access to public school facilities

(Sen. Limmer Amendment to SF1495, 2015)
OPPOSED by MinnCAN; Amendment failed

Sen. Warren Limmer offered an amendment to the omnibus education bill that would prohibit transgender and gender nonconforming students from using public restrooms, locker rooms or any other gender specific public facility that does not match their assigned sex at birth. Students who feel unsafe or excluded in school have higher rates of absenteeism, lower aspirations to attend post-secondary schooling and below average GPAs. Welcoming environments must be the first step toward a great public education for all kids. The Senate rejected the amendment on April 29, 2015.

Democrats: 0 yes, 37 no, 1 not voting; Republicans: 25 yes, 3 no, 1 not voting.

4. Student expulsion

(Sen. Nienow Amendment to SF2744, 2016) OPPOSED by MinnCAN; Amendment failed

Sen. Sean Nienow introduced an amendment to the omnibus education bill that would require school districts to expel students who "assault" a teacher. The state of Minnesota defines assault as "an act done with intent to cause fear in another" or "the infliction of or attempt to inflict bodily harm upon another." Requiring expulsion based on this broad definition would disproportionately impact students with disabilities and students of color. MinnCAN believes that we can keep students in school while still addressing discipline issues by taking a restorative approach, providing students and families due process and ensuring educators have effective tools and supports. The Senate rejected the amendment on April 27, 2016.

Democrats: 1 yes, 35 no, 3 not voting; Republicans: 25 yes, 1 no, 2 not voting.

5. Opening the door to outof-state teachers

(Sen. Rosen Amendment to SF2744, 2016)
SUPPORTED by MinnCAN; Amendment passed

Minnesota schools hire out-of-state teachers to fill teacher shortages, increase teacher diversity and, more generally, hire the candidates best aligned with their school's needs. After ongoing struggles to implement previously passed laws, Sen. Julie Rosen introduced an amendment to the omnibus education bill to bring sharper clarity around out-of-state teacher licensure requirements. Sen. Rosen's amendment requires that a standard Minnesota teaching license be issued to any out-of-state teacher who 1) holds a similar teaching license from another state; 2) passes all required exams; and 3) has at least one year of teaching experience. The Senate passed the amendment on April 27, 2016, and a modified version of the amendment became law.

Democrats: 9 yes, 27 no, 3 not voting; Republicans: 26 yes, 0 no, 2 not voting.

6. Minnesota Student Survey

(Sen. Nienow Amendment to SF2744, 2016) OPPOSED by MinnCAN; Amendment failed

The Minnesota Departments of Education, Health, Human Services, and Public Safety conduct the Minnesota Student Survey every three years for students across the state. The survey asks questions about activities, experiences, and behaviors such as tobacco, alcohol and drug use, school climate, physical activity, violence and safety, connections with school and family, general health, sexual health and other topics. The results are used to ensure academic and nonacademic policies are targeted and relevant to Minnesota's student body. This amendment would have required written parental consent before administering the survey, which would significantly reduce response rates and could potentially taint the data, preventing schools from serving kids comprehensively. The Senate rejected the amendment on April 27, 2016, keeping the surveys intact.

Democrats: 2 yes, 34 no, 3 not voting; Republicans: 25 yes, 0 no, 3 not voting.

7. Public data on the distribution of effective teachers

(Sen. Hann Amendment to SF2744) SUPPORTED by MinnCAN; Amendment failed

The fair distribution of effective and experienced educators is a lever for advancing equity in our schools. Teachers are the most important in-school factor for student growth and learning, but available data show that ineffective and inexperienced teachers tend to be concentrated in low-income and racially and ethnically diverse schools. We do not know the extent of the problem because the state is not required to provide public information on the number of effective and experienced teachers and where they teach. Sen. David Hann's amendment would have required the state to provide real and public data on where ineffective and inexperienced educators are placed. The Senate rejected the amendment on April 27, 2016.

Democrats: 0 yes, 36 no, 3 not voting; Republicans: 20 yes, 5 no, 3 not voting.

Minnesota House

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- 2. Quality-blind layoffs
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- 4. Community expert notifications
- 5. Principal accountability
- 6. Community expert licensure
- 7. Loan forgiveness
- 8. Student surveys
- 9. Education policy and finance bill
- Voted in support of MinnCAN position
- × Voted against MinnCAN position
- Didn't vote
- Not in office
- ★ Legislator received 15 extra credit points, which is included in the score

Representative Major Cities / Party / District 1 5 6 **Tony Albright** Prior Lake, Jordan / R / 55B 82 Susan Allen 48 **Mark Anderson** 82 **Paul Anderson** 82 **Sarah Anderson** 82 **Chad Anderson**

Tom Anzelc

Balsam Township, Grand Rapids / DFL / 05B

† Reflects partial voting record; did not serve for full biennium

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		tative es / Pa		istrict						
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Representative Major Cities / Party / District													
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David Dill

Crane Lake / DFL / 03A

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Pete				r I ake	Mah	tome	di / DE	. / 43	Δ	

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Representative Major Cities / Party / District 1 5 6 **Peggy Flanagan** $^{\dagger}100$ **Mary Franson** 82 **Mike Freiberg** 48 **Pat Garofalo** 82 **Steve Green** 67 Glenn Gruenhagen 82

Bob Gunther

Fairmont, Blue Earth / R / 23A

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	*	2016 Score
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Representative Major Cities / Party / District 1 5 6 Jerry Hertaus 82 Debra Hilstrom 48 Joe Hoppe 82 **Frank Hornstein** 48 Melissa Hortman 48 **Jeff Howe** 82 Jason Isaacson 48

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		ohns e, Isar		/ 32A								
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Clark Johnson North Mankato, St. Peter / DFL / 19A												
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Representative Major Cities / Party / District 1 5 6 **Jon Koznick** 82 **Ron Kresha** 82 **Carolyn Laine** 48 Ann Lenczewski †29 John Lesch

St Paul / DFI /

St. Paul / DFL / 66B

Tina Liebling

Rochester / DFL / 26A

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Ben Lien

Moorhead, Oakport / DFL / 04A

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Leon Lillie St. Paul / DFL / 43B														
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Diane Loeffler Minneapolis / DFL / 60A														
				•		•	•		*		48			
Kathy Lohmer Stillwater, Lake Elmo / R / 39B														
•	•	•			•	•		•	*		82			
Jenifer Loon Eden Prairie / R / 48B														
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		onan Shakop	oee / F	R / 55A										
•	•	•			•	•		•	*		82			
	Eric Lucero Alvertville, St. Michael / R / 30B													
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	l e Lu sby, Lu		/R/1											
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Representative Major Cities / Party / District													
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Tim Mahoney St. Paul / DFL / 67A													
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Carlos Mariani St. Paul / DFL / 65B													
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Paul Marquart Dilworth, Moorhead / DFL / 04B													
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		Masi rnsvill		L/51/									
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Joe McDonald Delano, Rockford / R / 29A													
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Denny McNamara Hastings, Cottage Grove / R / 54B													
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Carly Melin Hibbing, Marble / DFL / 06A														
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Jason Metsa Virginia, Eveleth / DFL / 06B														
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Tim Miller Murdock, Benson / R / 17A														
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Rena Moran St. Paul / DFL / 65A														
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Joe Mullery Minneapolis / DFL / 59A														
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	Erin Murphy St. Paul / DFL / 64A													
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Representative Major Cities / Party / District 1 5 6 **Dave Pinto** 48 Jeanne Poppe 48 **Cindy Pugh** 82 **Duane Quam** 82 **Jason Rarick** 82 **Paul Rosenthal** 48 **Linda Runbeck** 22

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Tim Sanders Blaine / R / 37B														
•	•	•			•	•		•	*		82			
Dan Schoen St. Paul Park / DFL / 54A														
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Joe Schomacker Luverne / R / 22A														
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Jennifer Schultz Duluth / DFL / 07A														
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Peggy Scott Andover / R / 35B														
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	Yvonne Selcer Minnetonka, Eden Prairie / DFL / 48A													
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Representative Major Cities / Party / District														
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Linda Slocum Richfield, Bloomington / DFL / 50A														
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Dennis Smith Maple Grove, Osseo / R / 34B														
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Chris Swedzinski Ghent, Marshall / R / 16A														
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	1a Th loud, '		Park /	' R / 14										
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	Paul Thissen Minneapolis / DFL / 61B													
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Representative Major Cities / Party / District 1 2 3 5 6 **Mark Uglem** 71 Dean Urdahl 71 0 **Bob Vogel** Belle Plaine, New Prague / R / 20A 82 Jean Wagenius 48 JoAnn Ward 48 **Abigail Whelan** 82 **Anna Wills** Apple Valley, Rosemont / R / 57B 82

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	an W		e r Plymoi	ıth St	Louis		/ DEI	/ 464		

†29

Barb Yarusso

Cheryl Youakim

Nick Zerwas

82

1. Omnibus education bill

(HF2, 2015) SUPPORTED by MinnCAN; Bill passed

The omnibus education bill, spearheaded by education chairs Jenifer Loon and Sondra Erickson, aimed to streamline licensure for out-of-state and alternatively certified educators. The bill also reinforced existing law that established licensure via portfolio as an alternative method to a teaching license. The bill also sought to eliminate quality-blind, seniority-based layoffs and, instead, required school districts and unions to negotiate local layoff policies based on locally determined criteria. Though some of these provisions were negotiated away in conference committee, such as the changes to layoff laws and community expert approval, the House passed the bill on March 5, 2015.

Democrats: 0 yes, 62 no;

Republicans: 70 yes, 1 no, 1 not voting.

2. Quality-blind layoffs

(Rep. Erickson Amendment to Rep. Mariani Amendment to HF2, 2015)

SUPPORTED by MinnCAN, Amendment passed

Rep. Sondra Erickson introduced an amendment to the omnibus education bill that would have required school districts and local unions to negotiate a process for conducting layoffs when necessary. The amendment would have also prevented "bumping," which allows teachers to replace less senior teachers regardless of subject expertise or teacher effectiveness. Though it was ultimately negotiated away in conference committee, the House passed the amendment on March 5, 2015.

Democrats: 0 yes, 62 no;

Republicans: 69 yes, 0 no, 3 not voting.

3. Out-of-state teacher licensure

(Rep. Erickson Amendment to Rep. Mariani Amendment to HF2, 2015)

SUPPORTED by MinnCAN; Amendment passed

Rep. Erickson introduced an amendment to the omnibus education bill that requires Minnesota's Board of Teaching to write clear rules and qualifications for teachers trained and experienced in other states to earn a standard Minnesota license. Under existing law, the Minnesota Board of Teaching or the Minnesota Department of Education required out-of-state teachers to discuss their qualifications with a Minnesota institution of higher education. Teachers are often instructed to take thousands of dollars worth of redundant and unnecessary coursework. Current practice has turned away several experienced, effective and diverse teachers in a time when Minnesota faces a devastating teacher shortage. This amendment blocked an effort to maintain the status quo and, instead, would shift the responsibility from higher education institutions in determining the qualifications of out-of-state teachers to Minnesota's teacher licensure agencies. The House passed the amendment on March 5, 2015.

Democrats: 0 yes, 62 no;

Republicans: 71 yes, 0 no, 1 not voting.

4. Community expert notifications

(Rep. Yarusso Amendment to HF2, 2015)
OPPOSED by MinnCAN; Amendment passed

Rep. Barb Yarusso introduced an amendment that requires districts send letters to families alerting them that their student's teacher is a community expert. By attaching stigma to the community expert role, this amendment has a chilling effect on schools' ability to recruit educators with deep subject matter expertise for tailored courses, or in critical shortage areas. The House passed the amendment, which eventually became law, on March 5, 2015.

Democrats: 62 yes, 0 no;

Republicans: 71 yes, 0 no, 1 not voting.

5. Principal accountability and effectiveness

(Rep. Slocum Amendment to HF2, 2015)
SUPPORTED by MinnCAN; Amendment failed

Rep. Linda Slocum introduced an amendment to the omnibus education bill that would require districts to discipline principals who do not make adequate progress in their improvement plans and require principal evaluations to include teacher surveys. Discipline includes warnings, termination or any other method a school administrator might deem necessary. In large part, principal effectiveness is based on the growth and proficiency of their students as well as the performance of their school's educators. We at MinnCAN recognize that strong evaluations of school principals also require leaders have the autonomy to improve student outcomes and give educators the opportunity to grow in their profession. The House rejected the amendment on March 5, 2015.

Democrats: 62 yes, 0 no;

Republicans: 0 yes, 71 no, 1 not voting.

6. Community expert approvals

(Rep. Mariani Amendment to HF2, 2015)

OPPOSED by MinnCAN; Amendment failed

Rep. Carlos Mariani introduced an amendment to strike the provision for increased flexibility in HF 2, a bill which attempted to give schools more authority to hire community experts when efforts to recruit a fully-licensed teacher did not result in the right candidates. The bill sought to give schools more flexibility to make these decisions without explicit case-by-case approval from the Board of Teaching; a process which many school leaders find subjective and unpredictable. The House rejected the amendment on March 5, 2015.

Democrats: 62 yes, 0 no;

Republicans: 0 yes, 71 no, 1 not voting.

Ultimately, however, the conference committee did not include this provision of HF 2 in final law.

7. Teacher loan forgiveness grant

(Rep. Loon Amendment to HF2749, 2016)
SUPPORTED by MinnCAN; Amendment passed

This loan forgiveness program offers financial support to educators working in teacher shortage areas. Rep. Jenifer Loon introduced this amendment to the omnibus education bill to increase investment from \$200,000 a year to \$2.2 million a year. The loan forgiveness grants will incentivize teachers to enter the profession and will help fill teacher shortages in hard-to-staff schools. The House passed the amendment, which eventually increased investment in the important program, on April 25, 2016.

Democrats: 58 yes, 0 no, 3 not voting;

Republicans: 73 yes, 0 no.

8. Minnesota Student Survey

(Rep. Ward Amendment to HF2749, 2016) SUPPORTED by MinnCAN; Amendment failed

The Minnesota Departments of Education, Health, Human Services, and Public Safety conduct the Minnesota Student Survey every three years for students across the state. The survey asks questions about activities, experiences, and behaviors such as tobacco, alcohol and drug use, school climate, physical activity, violence and safety, connections with school and family, general health, sexual health and other topics. The results are used to ensure academic and nonacademic policies are targeted and relevant to Minnesota's student body. The omnibus education bill sought to eliminate the Student Survey, but this amendment attempted to preserve it. Though it was ultimately preserved in conference committee, the House rejected the amendment on April 25, 2016.

Democrats: 52 yes, 6 no, 3 not voting;

Republicans: 0 yes, 73 no.

9. Omnibus education bill

(HF844, 2015) SUPPORTED by MinnCAN; Bill passed

The bill aimed to invest \$400 million in new money to increase the basic per pupil formula by 1.5 percent in year one and 2 percent in year two—still below inflation but higher than original requests from the Governor, the House or Senate. The bill also sought to expand early learning programs targeted to low-income families, maintain and repair school buildings, increase Indian education aid and provide increased access to college in the schools. Beyond monetary investments, the bill also sought to make significant policy fixes, like meaningful and long overdue changes to Minnesota's teacher licensure system to help our schools attract effective, experienced and diverse teachers from other states. It also sought to improve teacher mentorship programs, allow teachers in hard-tostaff schools to receive greater compensation and limit the amount of time students spend on testing. The House passed the bill on April 25, 2015.

Democrats: 0 yes, 60 no, 2 not voting; Republicans: 69 yes, 1 no, 2 not voting.