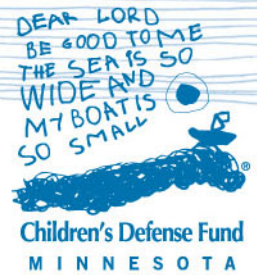


# 10-10-10 March for Children and Youth Because *All Children Need a Quality Education*



## **Knowledge is Power.**

By gaining a quality K-12 education students will have more choices in their future. Unfortunately, though, not all children have the same opportunities for a quality education.

- Minnesota spends an estimated \$113 million annually to make up for children being unprepared when they enter school.
- Only 39% of Black students finish high school, and there is a 45 percentage point difference in graduation rates between Black and White Minnesota students, the worst in the country.
- From 2003 to 2009, state aid to school districts fell by 13.9%.

**Children are learning to read until about 3<sup>rd</sup> grade; then they begin reading to learn.** If a child has not mastered the basics of reading by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, they begin to lag behind, often losing interest in reading, and beginning the challenging journey of trying to catch up in order to succeed and graduate.

- 63% of Minnesota's fourth graders and 64% of Minnesota's eighth graders are not proficient in reading.
- Students not proficient at reading by the beginning of third grade have only a 25% chance of catching up over their entire public school experience.
- It costs society as much as \$260,000 in low wages, poor health and decreased productivity over a life time when one student drops out of school.

## **Minnesota can do better to provide a quality education to every Minnesota child.**

We must expand the opportunity for all children to receive a quality early education that will put each child on the road to success. We must close the achievement gap between our White children and our children of color. We must make sure every child is reading to learn by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

## **Questions for Candidates:**

- With our state facing a huge budget deficit, what are your plans for keeping education at the top of your agenda?
- What is the first thing you will do, if elected, to close the achievement gap for Minnesota's students?
- What will you do to address the true needs of our children's education?