

Alliance for Student Achievement

Chair Chris Richardson • 1400 Division Street South, Northfield, MN 55057
Telephone 507-663-0629 • Fax 507-663-0611 • E-mail Chris.Richardson@nfld.k12.mn.us

Members: Association of Metropolitan School Districts • Education Minnesota • Minnesota Association of School Administrators • Minnesota Association of School Business Officials • Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals • Minnesota Elementary School Principals Association • Minnesota Parent Teacher Association • Minnesota Rural Education Association • Minnesota School Boards Association • Schools for Equity in Education
Partners: Minnesota School Public Relations Association • Parents United for Public Schools • Minnesota Community Education Association • Minnesota Association of Special Education • Ready4K

November 23, 2009

Ole Savior
Savior Governor
P.O. Box 141031
Minneapolis, MN 55414

In an effort to prepare our member organizations to thoughtfully consider your candidacy for Governor of the State of Minnesota, the Alliance for Student Achievement respectfully requests the completion of the enclosed candidate questions. We would appreciate the return of the completed questions by Friday, December 11, 2009 to our office at:

Dr. Chris Richardson
Alliance for Student Achievement
1400 Division Street South
Northfield, MN 55057
Chris.Richardson@nfld.k12.mn.us

The responses to these candidate questions will be posted on the Alliance website in advance of precinct caucuses for both parties and will likely be posted on the websites of our fifteen member organizations. Copies of your responses will also be available for distribution to the membership of each of our organizations so that they will be informed concerning your perspective on PreK-12 education in our State.

We would also like to take this opportunity to share some information about the Alliance for Student Achievement, an alliance of ten member organizations and five partner organizations that represent all of the major stakeholders and diverse perspectives of PreK-12 education in the State of Minnesota.

We were formed almost a decade ago in response to our belief that Minnesota lacked an organization that could speak for the educational needs of the children of the State. The mission of the Minnesota Alliance for Student Achievement is to improve student achievement by advocating with a unified voice for PreK-12 public education. We believe that this can be accomplished by establishing areas of agreement for Alliance members that allow us to speak and advocate for a common vision for education in Minnesota, and by building trust and understanding among Alliance member organizations.

We have worked to create a collective vision for our organization. We believe that working together as a unified voice for improved student achievement in public education, we will be able to establish a clear, joint legislative agenda based on common priorities and realizable goals, thereby impacting legislative action related to funding and policy issues. We believe we can do this by developing increased trust, respect and understanding for one another and about our shared and individual issues. We further believe that by speaking with one voice, we can be an effective force with enhanced visibility, credibility and public confidence.

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Gubernatorial Candidate Questionnaire Alliance for Student Achievement 2010 Election

Overview Statement:

Describe your vision and priorities for E-12 public education in Minnesota. *More state funding, new schools, more teachers.*

Briefly describe your experience working on education issues. *I have been in politics for over 25 years and have always supported educational needs and funding priorities in Minnesota.*

Funding: In 2003, Governor Pawlenty appointed a task force to develop recommendations for reforming Minnesota's education funding system. Legislators and education organizations used the task force report to develop the "New Minnesota Miracle" proposal which includes automatic inflationary increases. Do you support this proposal? If not, what is your plan for reforming Minnesota's education funding system? *No. I will reform the Minnesota budget, more income coming into the state. More programs financed for*

Do you support funding for all-day, every day kindergarten and for expanding high quality early childhood learning opportunities in our public schools? *Yes! We should have had it years ago. education is needed.*

Tax Policy:

How would you reform state tax policy to stabilize Minnesota's fiscal system and ensure that our E-12 education system has the financial resources necessary to provide students with access to high-quality education programs without reliance on referendum levies? *The Governor and our legislatures have missed many opportunities to increase the state budget - more incoming income is needed*

Standards/Testing: Should high stakes tests be used to determine whether or not Minnesota students are granted a diploma? *No. We have a good system "before" everyone in Minnesota. Pawlenty it will continue after he leaves - office.*

Achievement Gap/Reform Initiatives

Please describe your initiatives to "reform" education and/or to narrow the achievement gap. Please describe how you would fund these initiatives. *"New" \$ Funding and opportunities for higher education is one of the goal we need to achieve to help all Minnesotan children in the future.*

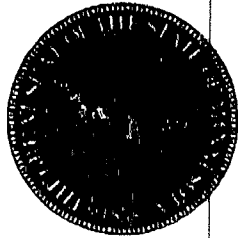
Please return questionnaire to:
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Ole' Savior 2010

MINNESOTA GOVERNORSHIP



Candidate

Democratic (D.F.L.) Party

Artist, Poet, and Writer.

Major: Psychology, Political Science.

Study of History, Astrology, Mythology.

Candidate for Governor of Minnesota, 1998, 2002, 2006 & 2010

Candidates for Congress 1988

Candidates for the U.S Senate 1984, 1996, 2000, 2008

Ole' Savior • P.O. Box 141031 University Ave. S.E. • Minneapolis, MN

www.OLB-SAVIOR.org • Reg. ID 16869 File Oct. 30, 2008

(I Support)

Nuclear Free World: Weapons

**DEMOCRATIC
PARTY**



- ✓ ★ New Vikings Stadium.
- ★ Protect Social Security & Medicare.
- ★ Balanced budget but not at the expense of the programs for the elderly, poor or disadvantaged.
- ★ Clean air, safe water and healthy environment.
- ★ Human Rights and Amnesty International.
- ★ Minnesota has one out of nine children living in poverty.
- ★ There are 3,500 children without Shelter.
- ★ Children without Health insurance 64,000.
- ★ Working Adults, 3 out of 5 have no health insurance.
- ★ Twin Cities metro has few jobs available, and thousands of unemployed workers competing.
- ★ A National Health Insurance System.
- ★ Long sentences for drug dealers.
- ★ Making Justice System more responsive in handling case of violence against women and children.
- ★ Improve K-12 education standards with newer schools, Hire more teachers.
- ★ Oppose any cuts in Veterans Health Care.
- ★ Support the American Disabilities Act 100%.
- ★ Affordable prescription drugs for everyone.



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Send contributions to

Volunteer Committee, P.O. Box 141031, Mpls. MN 55414

Request for speaker engagements call (612) 872-8050.

OLE'S SAVIOR



★★★ GOVERNOR OF MINNESOTA 2010 ★★★★★



Reg. I.D. 16869

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