



Bits 'n Pieces Fall 2005

Just the Facts

Taxes

“Minnesota is one of the most affluent states and will get richer in the next few years.” – *State economist, Tom Stinson*

25% growth in per capita personal income is expected in the coming years. According to state economist Tom Stinson, That means Minnesota can “buy 25 percent more stuff” without sacrificing anything. – *State economist, Tom Stinson*

“We’re making choices whether we realize it or not.” – *Tom Gillaspay, state demographer*

School Funding

“Minnesotans need to tune out the crowing politicians, look at the trends in education funding, and ask: If education is the driver in today’s economic race, is Minnesota going to stay among the leaders?” – *Star Tribune, July 31, 2005*

The law [NCLB] gifts testing companies over \$2 billion annually. – Bracey, Gerald W., *No Child Left Behind: Where Does the Money Go*

Parenting

According to a new Mayo Clinic study, children may need coaching from Mom and Dad on how to develop and maintain friendships. “The study suggests that when parents are closely involved, the children are able to use their new social skills outside the clinic, such as at home and school.” – *Leslie Sim, PhD, Mayo Clinic psychologist*. Parents can teach and reinforce the following social rules to help kids establish friendships:

- ✓ Ask questions
- ✓ Give compliments
- ✓ Don’t brag
- ✓ Don’t be bossy
- ✓ Take turns

“While it is very important to develop good accountability systems for teaching and schools, as a society we are ignoring the larger contributors to long-term social competence: good and well-cultivated parenting and healthy environments.” – Tony Moss

Red Flags

“Surveys find confidence in public schools has declined since the 1970s, and seven in 10 Americans say they favor strict standards for public schools.” -- *Public Agenda Online, July 14, 2005*

In the Third International Mathematics and Science Study, only 6 of the 41 participating countries outscored high-flying Minnesota in mathematics and only one of 41 attained a higher science score. Yet the state’s Legislative Auditor projected that by 2014, NCLB will find 80 percent of Minnesota’s schools wanting. A September 2005 study estimated a 95% failure rate for six Great Lakes states, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota. – Gerald Bracey, Associate of the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation, fellow of the Education Policy Studies Laboratory at Arizona State University.

Bragging Rights

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment Results reach new statewide highs and place more students at the highest level of proficiency than ever before!

- ❑ Grade 3 math average scale scores rose 122 points between 1998 and 2004
- ❑ Grade 3 reading average scale scores rose 125 points between 1998 and 2004
- ❑ Grade 5 math average scale scores rose 144 points between 1998 and 2004
- ❑ Grade 5 reading average scale scores rose 160 points between 1998 and 2004

Minnesota students' average ACT scores are number one in the most prosperous nation in the world.



Quotes and Quotables

Character

“Out of clutter, find simplicity. From discord, find harmony. In the middle of difficulty, lies opportunity.” – *Albert Einstein*

“The only honest measure of your success is what you are doing compared to your true potential.” – *Paul J. Meyer, Founder of Success Motivation International*

Leadership

“We have the power to shape the civilization that we want. But we need your will, your labor, and your hearts if we are to build that kind of society. Those who came to this land sought to build more than just a new country. They sought a new world. So I have come here today to say that you can make their vision our reality. So let us from this moment begin our work.” – *former president of the United States of America Lyndon B. Johnson*

“Step on someone’s hopes—and you trip.” *unknown*

Progress

“The things you used to get here are not the things you need to get there.” – *Peter Drucker*

“You can flourish in this flat world, but it does take the right imagination and the right motivation.” – *Thomas L. Friedman, The World is Flat*

“What we do today will shape our future for a quarter century.” – *state economist, Tom Stinson*

“These really are the good times. This is the time we have the most resources we’re going to have.” – *state economist, Tom Stinson*

“The secret to getting ahead is getting started.” – *Sally Berger*

“No great deed, private or public, has ever been undertaken in a bliss of certainty.” *Leon Wieseltier, Editor*

Education

“Education is what it’s all about. Nothing else comes close in importance.” – *Art Rolnick, top research economist Federal Reserve Bank*

“If our American way of life fails the child, it fails us all.” – *Pearl S. Buck*

“As a businessman and parent, I know that there is no better investment the state of Minnesota can make than in our kids and our schools.” *Ward Eames, director of the Hopkins LAC Business Task Force.*

“We are not what we know but what we are willing to learn.” – *Mary Catherine Bateson, Cultural anthropologist*

Communications

“Create the evidence of your service quality. Then communicate it.” – *Harry Beckwith, Selling the Invisible*

“Schools simply aren’t going to be able to introduce and maintain changes of this magnitude without more involvement and buy-in from parents and the community at large.” – *Jean Johnson, Public Agenda’s executive vice president and Education Insights’ director.*

“We need to do a better job of articulating what a wise investment looks like.” – *Lori Schaefer, associate director of Growth & Justice*

Just for Fun

“Nostalgia is like a grammar lesson: you find the present tense and the past perfect.” – *Anonymous*

“A conclusion is the place where you got tired thinking.” – *Martin H. Fischer, physician and writer*



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