



10 Ways 10 Days

Invest In Minnesota's Future

6th Way

Invest in Early Childhood Education

Gretchen Dullinger is an early childhood education teacher in the Osseo school district. She's taught in Osseo for 11 years.

"We have programming for children ages birth to five including preschool for three- and four-year olds, Early Childhood Family Education classes, home visits, screening and more," Gretchen says. "Children in our programs develop social, cognitive and motors skills that prepare them for kindergarten."

Gretchen adds, "There is a tremendous return on investment in these children as they move on to be successful in our elementary schools."

Osseo's program served 3,260 students in 2012. However, there is a waiting list of more than 150 children who are currently unable to attend because of lack of space and resources.

A large number of the students in the program qualify for free and reduced lunch, and are able to attend early childhood programs for a reduced cost or for free.

Gretchen noted that children in the school district, which includes some or all of Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Corcoran, Dayton, Maple Grove, Osseo, Plymouth and Rogers, come from a variety of backgrounds and family structures.

"With additional state funding, we would be able to ensure that dozens if not hundreds of children have the skills and knowledge base to succeed in school and life," she says.

With fair and adequate revenues we can make high-quality early childhood education options accessible for all kids.

For more information about early childhood education, contact Gretchen Dullinger at Education Minnesota Osseo at (763) 315-3416. For more information about 10 Ways In 10 Days and Invest in Minnesota, contact Leah Gardner at 651-757-3063 or visit our website at www.investinmn.org.



All Minnesotans benefit when we invest in our communities.

With fair and adequate revenues, we can invest in our schools and colleges, maintain our roads and bridges, and provide care and dignity to our senior citizens and people with disabilities.

After a decade of deep budget cuts, it's time to raise revenues fairly in order to move our state forward and invest in prosperity for all Minnesotans.

Invest in Minnesota is a coalition of faith, labor and nonprofit organizations united to support revenue raised fairly to invest in Minnesota's future.

