



Good morning everyone.

I want all of you to take a good look at the projects that fill up this rotunda.

These are examples of the highest type of learning - doing.

I'm a man of results - and what I see here are results.

You can *see* that these kids understand their topics, and when you talk to them, you *know* it.

These are examples of the higher standards: the Profile of Learning.

We hear so much about the Profile of Learning (pause)and some of it is *negative*.

Here's what I say:

I support this kind of knowledge one-hundred percent.

These are the kids who will do well in a new high technology society. . . . a global society.

These are kids who understand how to turn their ideas into reality.

These are the kids who will make sure Minnesota remains successful and competitive in the 21st century.

It is my responsibility as Governor to make sure a high school diploma means they are ready to take on the world.

We all know that we can't launch a major educational reform like the Profile of Learning without having some problems.

The Profile of Learning has two kinds of problems - bureaucratic problems and political problems.

Bureaucratic problems are stuff like –

- too much paperwork,
- different kinds of computer software that don't talk to each other,
- figuring out how to teach the Profile without simply adding it onto what is already being taught.

This stuff we can fix.

Unfortunately, bureaucratic problems also have included poor communication.

For example – some people have the mistaken idea that the state-created performance packages are MANDATORY.

This is not true. The state created *model* lesson plans.

Teachers are free to change them, or they can create their own.

I congratulate the House for working to make this clear: The state-created performance packages are NOT MANDATORY.

And I commend Senator Pogemiller for proposing a creative way for school boards and teachers to declare their readiness for implementing the Profile of Learning.

They would actually vote on how many standards they are able to handle right now. That's good to know. The truth is good.

The *political* problem is that some lawmakers want to eliminate the high standards, or arbitrarily lower them, instead of making them work.

If teaching or learning the high standards is hard work. . . . GOOD.

We all need to work hard.

But, please, don't pull the rug out from under our kids.

Let's not play politics with kids.

Let's hold the bureaucrats accountable for implementation - and that includes us & CFL - but it also include the superintendents, school board members, principals and of course - teachers.

I'm sure we can work together to make the Profile of Learning successful in every school in Minnesota.

You know, I'm glad I chose for my Lieutenant Governor a classroom teacher who actually had to work with these standards.

As my Ambassador of Education she has visited more than one hundred school districts across the state.

She has listened to your successes and your issues.

And I have listened to her.

Lieutenant Governor how are schools doing with the Profile? ###