



# PARENTS UNITED FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## ALEC Exposed in Minnesota

### Who is ALEC?

#### **ALEC is the American Legislative Exchange Council**

A national group that brings together state legislators and corporations to sit side-by-side on legislative task forces to draft model bills that can then be introduced at the state level. Corporations can veto proposals and ideas that aren't to their liking—and can propose measures then written into model bills. Those model bills are introduced in multiple places creating consistent messages across the country. One state strategy is to introduce a lot of bills so education proponents can't do away with all of them at one time.

### How did we learn about ALEC?

The Center for Media and Democracy and The Nation exposed ALEC efforts to privatize education through charters, vouchers, watering down teacher certification, breaking teacher unions, increasing testing, discrediting public schools, and eroding local control in August of 2011.

### What's their education agenda? (the short list)

- Promoting voucher programs that drain public schools of resources by using taxpayer dollars to subsidize private school profits, and specifying that those schools must remain unregulated.
- Offering private school vouchers with "universal eligibility" (using taxpayer dollars to subsidize private schools for the rich and others); "means-tested eligibility," (using poverty as the first domino in an effort to privatize public schools ; and "universal eligibility with means-tested scholarship." (Here, "scholarship" means using taxpayer dollars to pay private school tuition and/or profits.)
- Creating a scheme to deem public schools "educationally bankrupt" to rationalize giving taxpayer dollars to almost completely unregulated private schools, rather than addressing any problems.
- Setting up low-income students for failure in college by incentivizing early graduation for students in need of a complete high school education.
- Certifying individuals with no education background as teachers, a move that would weaken the quality of education, that fails to recognize there is more to teaching than knowledge of a subject, and that would undermine the role and competitiveness of professional teachers.
- Eliminating tenure for teachers in favor of "performance," allowing districts to fire older teachers in favor of lower-cost young teachers and undermining teacher's unions.

### Who's working on/concerned about this?

Common Cause Minnesota is working on the broader ALEC issues in Minnesota. See their report released January 18, 2012:

- **Blog Post:** Report Exposes How Corporate Lobbyists Draft Minnesota Laws  
[www.commonblog.com/2012/01/18/report-exposes-how-corporate-lobbyists-draft-minnesota-laws](http://www.commonblog.com/2012/01/18/report-exposes-how-corporate-lobbyists-draft-minnesota-laws)
- **Report:** Legislating Under the Influence: How corporations write state laws in Minnesota  
[www.scribd.com/fullscreen/78448237?access\\_key=key-a6hdjq8v38luteku97w](http://www.scribd.com/fullscreen/78448237?access_key=key-a6hdjq8v38luteku97w)

### Where can I find more information about ALEC's impact on education in Minnesota?

[parentsunited.org/aleceducationagenda.html](http://parentsunited.org/aleceducationagenda.html)

### Current & Former Minnesota Legislators Confirmed as ALEC Members:

#### State Representatives

Rep. Bruce Anderson (19A)  
–Tax & Fiscal Policy Task Force  
Rep. Paul Anderson (13A)  
–Health & Human Services Task Force  
Rep. King Banaian (15B)  
Rep. Michael Beard (35A)  
–Commerce, Insurance & Economic Development Task Force  
Rep. Mike Benson (30B)  
Majority Leader Matt Dean (52B)  
–International Relations Task Force  
Rep. Connie Doepke (33B)  
–Telecommunications & Information Technology Task Force  
Rep. Steve Drazkowski (28B)  
–Civil Justice Task Force  
Rep. Sondra Erickson (16A)  
–Education Task Force  
Rep. Pat Garofalo (36B)  
–Education Task Force  
Rep. Mary Kiffmeyer (16B)  
–ALEC State Chairman  
–International Relations Task Force  
Rep. Carol McFarlane (53B)  
–Education Task Force  
Rep. Pam Myhra (40A)  
–Tax & Fiscal Policy Task Force  
Rep. Joyce Peppin (32A)  
Rep. Linda Runbeck (52A)  
–Tax & Fiscal Policy Task Force  
Rep. Ron Shimanski (18A)  
–Public Safety & Elections Task Force  
Rep. Dean Urdahl (18B)  
Speaker Kurt Zellers (32B)

#### State Senators

Sen. Roger Chamberlain (53)  
–Public Safety & Elections Task Force  
Sen. Ted Daley (38)  
–Public Safety & Elections Task Force  
Sen. Chris Gerlach (37)  
–Commerce, Insurance & Economic Development Task Force  
Sen. Gretchen Hoffman (10)  
–Health & Human Services Task Force  
Sen. John Howe (28)  
Sen. Gen Olson (33)  
–Education Task Force  
Sen. Mike Parry (26)  
–Telecommunications & Information Technology Task Force  
Sen. Michael Jungbauer (48)  
Sen. Warren Limmer (32)

#### Former State Representatives and Senators

Former Rep. Laura Brod (25A)  
–Former ALEC State Chairman  
Former Sen. Pat Pariseau (36)  
Former Rep. Tom Emmer (19B)