**EDUCATION**

Lena comes from Milwaukee, was educated in Milwaukee, and knows she holds the office of State Senator because of her education. She is acutely aware of what happens when Wisconsin does not invest in its future by inadequately funding its public schools. 85% of students in Milwaukee read below grade level and 70% of their parents are functionally illiterate. As the most experienced Milwaukee delegation member of the Joint Finance Committee, Lena fights every day for increased education spending.

Investing in people is what matters—that’s the only way to create progress in communities. Further, a quality education needs to be accessible for all, not the few. That’s why Lena fights so hard in the battle against those who seek to tear down the foundations of education. She’s co-authored legislation mandating teacher evaluations be subject to collective bargaining (2009 SB 372: <http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2009/proposals/sb372>) and legislation placing more regulations on virtual charter schools (2007 SB 396: <http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2007/proposals/sb396>). Lena was even a member of the “Wisconsin 14” who left the state in 2011 in an effort to block the senate from taking up Governor Walker’s union-busting bill.

Lena has battled vigorously against the expansion of the voucher program and the Milwaukee Public Schools takeover, both of which will negatively impact MPS, and, more importantly, the children within it. Instead of spending money to expand the failing voucher program, Wisconsin needs to increase funding for public schools. Directing state funding to private voucher schools at the expense of districts like MPS is unconscionable. In fact, 7 out of the 10 worst performing schools in Milwaukee are voucher schools. The idea that vouchers help kids in struggling public schools is a myth—80% of new voucher students in Wisconsin already go to a private school. Investing in students not only has direct implications for their future, but also for Wisconsin’s future as a whole. Providing future generations with the necessary tools and knowledge to succeed is a goal Wisconsin needs to prioritize.

Until recently, Wisconsin had a long history of investing in education, no matter the economic times. Lena is working hard to make sure we return to fully funding public schools. Her vision for education in Wisconsin, and specifically in the 4th Senate District, is a holistic one. **\*Tie in Sustainable Milwaukee?\***

Education Awards:

-2012 Special Thanks from Grantosa Drive School for all you do in public education

-2011 Recipient of the National Education Association’s “Friend of Education” Award

-2010 Recipient of award from MPS recognizing participation and contribution to interscholastic athletics in Milwaukee Public Schools

-2007 Recipient of the MTEA Don Feilbach Friend of Public Education in Milwaukee Award

Education Clips:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCzvLEiJgnU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c7bVNzNylIY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wq4JZ4CagIs>

<https://www.ovguide.com/video/grittv-lena-taylor-preparing-for-our-future-922ca39ce10036ba0e117de4ace1b22f>