

Operation Wildfire: Good Things Happen When YOU Vote

October 10, 2024

On the Issues: Education

As with all national elections, much attention will be paid to a handful of high-profile issues, some related to differences in approaches to governance, others to the personal qualities of the candidates. But the election will also have consequences far beyond the headlines, particularly for students. This election will help determine what students are taught, where they go to school, how they pay for college, and whether they can get a good job. Let's look at where the presidential candidates stand on education.

	Vice President Kamala Harris¹	Former President Donald Trump²
Great Principals and Great Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Recruit more teachers, paraprofessionals and school related personnel, and education support professionals.Provide a raise to public school educators.Improve working conditions and support to make teaching a sustainable and affordable profession.Diversify the teacher pipeline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Support schools that focus on excellence and parental rights.Support ending teacher tenure, adopting merit pay.Allowing various publicly supported educational models.
Universal School Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Free, universal preschool for four-year olds.Oppose the use of private school vouchers, tuition tax credits, opportunity scholarships and other schemes that divert taxpayer-funded resources away from public education.Increase accountability at charter schools, holding them to the same transparency standards as public schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Empower families to choose the best education for their children.Support universal school choice in every state in America, where parents have the power, and the public dollars, to enroll their children in any school they want, whether it's public or private.Expand 529 Education Savings Accounts.Support homeschooling families.
Prepare Students for Jobs and Careers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Invest in career and technical education.Expand job training partnerships that connect high schools, local businesses and labor unions to prepare students for jobs in high skill, high wage and in demand industries.Deliver student debt relief to college students.Expand Pell Grants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Support project-based learning and schools that offer meaningful work experience.Expose politicized education models.Fund proven career training programs.Reduce the cost of higher education, and support the creation of more affordable alternatives to a traditional four-year college degree.
Safe, Secure and Drug-Free Schools	As a 2019 presidential candidate, Harris called for police officers to be removed from public schools. "We need to deal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Support overhauling standards on school discipline.

¹ '24 Democratic Party Platform, <https://democrats.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/FINAL-MASTER-PLATFORM.pdf>

² The 2024 Republican Party Platform, <https://www.2024gopplatform.com/>

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	with the reality and speak the truth about the inequities around school discipline. Where in particular, black and brown boys are being expelled and or suspended as young as, I've seen, as young as in elementary school."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for immediate suspension of violent students. • Keep violence away from our places of learning.
Restore Parental Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End discrimination on the basis of race. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforce our civil rights laws to stop schools from discriminating on the basis of race. • Trust parents to make right decisions for their children. • Restore parents' right to decide.
Knowledge and Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build social and emotional supports at schools. • Offer literacy programs. • Set high expectations for student attendance. • Provide intensive tutoring. • Extend the school day and school year. • Expand community schools. • Help schools lift student achievement, rather than punishing them based on state standardized tests. • Prioritize cutting-edge STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) fields. • Provide a pathway to multilingual education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure children are taught fundamentals like Reading, History, Science and Math. • Defund schools that engage in inappropriate political indoctrination of our children using federal taxpayer dollars.
Promote Civics Education	Our research was unable to uncover where Vice President Harris stands on Civics education in our schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinstate the 1776 Commission. • Promote fair and patriotic Civics education. • Veto efforts to nationalize Civics education. • Support schools that teach America's founding principles and western civilization.
Freedom to Pray	<p>Biden-Harris Administration clarified a Supreme Court decision on school prayer one year after its ruling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students have a right to pray and participate in other types of religious expression on school property during non-instructional time. They can also organize prayer groups or faith-based clubs and proselytize to their classmates. • During instructional time, students' religious rights are more limited, but there are still some opportunities to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion the First Amendment right to pray and read the Bible in school. • Stand up to those who violate the religious freedoms of American students.

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	pray such as bowing their heads before a test. https://www.deseret.com/2023/5/15/	
Return Education to the States	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep the Department of Education in Washington, DC open³.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Close the Department of Education in Washington, DC.• Send education back to the states, and let the states run our educational system as it should be run.• Teachers will be cherished and protected so they can educate our students as they clearly want to do.• Bring education in the U.S. to the highest level.

³ NPR, "Here's where Trump and Harris Stand on 6 Education Issues," <https://www.npr.org/2024/09/08/nx-s1-5103698/trump-harris-election-platforms-education-views>