

Where do the 2016 presidential candidates stand on education?



PAA cannot and does not endorse any candidate, but we are committed to educating parents and the general public about where the candidates and parties stand on education issues. The information in the following table was retrieved on 2/10/16 from www.ontheissues.org/education and www.ballotpedia.org, on 2/15/16 from the candidates' own web sites, and from media reports. We have focused on the two remaining Democratic candidates and the top 6 Republican nominees based on today's national polling.

Candidate	General education philosophy	Testing	Charters	Vouchers	Other
J. Bush (R)	Lines up with much of corporate reform agenda	Pushed for more tests as Gov. of Florida	Strongly supports “choice” and charter schools, started a charter school	Strongly supports	Opposed FL lower class size program
B. Carson (R)	Less federal involvement		Supports “choice” and charters	Strongly supports	
H. Clinton (D)	Democratic public schools are important	Says there's too much testing, opposes test-based teacher evaluation	Says charters should be a choice for parents but has criticized them - says they should supplement not supplant strong public schools	Opposes	Supports arts education, universal pre-school
T. Cruz (R)	Control belongs at local level		Supports “choice” and charters	Strongly supports	Abolish Common Core, Dept. of Education
J. Kasich (R)	Competition key to education; give power back to local level; listen to parents	Enacted third grade retention program	Supports “choice” and charters	Strongly supports	Believes Bible is history, schools do not need more funding, supports constitutional amendment for school prayer
M. Rubio (R)	Competition and choice will save public education; less federal involvement, stronger local role		Strongly supports charters and “choice;” says this benefits low-income families most	Strongly supports	Supports virtual/blended learning
B. Sanders (D)	His comments focus primarily on higher ed	Supports annual federal testing mandate but wants “holistic approach” to testing	Has supported charters, voted for more federal funding for them, but recently stated that he opposes privately run charter schools.	Opposes	Supports reduced class size
D. Trump (R)	Much smaller federal role in education		Supports “choice”	Supports as part of “competition”	Opposes teachers unions, Common Core