

2016 Stronger Together Talking Points and FAQ on Education

September 14th, 2016

Core Message

Massachusetts Democrats have always worked to ensure that our children have a strong educational foundation as a means to create opportunity, foster curiosity, and invest in a better future. Their efforts in closing the achievement gap, increasing state funding for public schools, and expanding access to pre-K and all-day kindergarten highlight the Democratic commitment to quality schools. As a result, Massachusetts is a national leader in education, recognized for having the best public school system in the U.S.

Hillary knows that access to strong public education is the key to preparing our children for the future and to creating an equitable society. That's why she will treat education as a top priority and fight to ensure every student receives a world class education, regardless of their ZIP code.

Trump prioritizes profits, not students. He has scammed thousands of students with Trump University for his personal profit. He has even proposed eliminating the Department of Education to prioritize tax-cuts for billionaires like himself.

Massachusetts is a National Leader in Education

- Home to the first public school in the United States, Massachusetts is first in the nation in education.
- If Massachusetts were its own country, our students would rank in the top 10 in the world for math and science.
- Under a Democratic legislature, Massachusetts has invested in our children's education, emphasizing STEM education.
- Massachusetts Democrats have invested in education at all levels, including an emphasis on community colleges and our public university system.

Hillary Will Invest in Quality Public Education

- Clinton will make preschool universal for every 4-year-old in America.
- She will launch a national campaign to modernize and elevate the profession of teaching.
- Clinton will offer every student an opportunity to learn computer science.
- Clinton will provide the capital to rebuild schools, from increasing energy efficiency and tackling asbestos to upgrading science labs and high-speed broadband.
- She will dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline by providing \$2 billion to reform overly punitive disciplinary policies and will encourage states to implement social and emotional support interventions.
- Clinton will expand access to higher education and reduce the burden of student debt so that students can develop the knowledge and skills they need to build the lives they want.
- She will work towards debt-free college for all Americans.
- She will enable all students with family income up to \$125,000 to attend an in-state public college or university tuition-free, covering more than 80% of all families.
- Clinton will provide tuition-free community college and expanded access to career and skills-based training.
- She will dramatically cut interest rates on student loans so government will no longer profit off of student loans.

Trump Will Gut Educational Funding

- Donald Trump has proposed eliminating the U.S. Department of Education.
- This would be catastrophic; 490,000 teachers would lose their jobs, 8 million students would lose their Pell grants every year, and programs ensuring quality education for 5 million students with disabilities would lose \$12.7 billion each year. These are just a few examples.
- In his latest education speech on September 8th, Trump proposed gutting 30% of the federal education budget and turning it into private school vouchers. This would decimate public schools and deprive our most vulnerable students of the education they deserve.
- Trump's plan would eliminate the targeting of federal dollars to schools and districts with the highest concentrations of low-income students. Instead, he would turn over all \$15.4 billion in Title I funding to states and allow money to follow students outside of the public school system to private or parochial schools.
- This could strip funding from up to 56,000 public schools serving over 21 million children.
- Trump's proposal could have a devastating impact on student achievement. Research shows that students who attend schools using vouchers often do worse than those who stayed in their neighborhood public schools.
- Trump prioritizes profits, not students. Trump University scammed its students in what former salesman for Trump University, Ronald Schnackenberg, called a “fraudulent scheme” that “preyed upon the elderly and uneducated.”
- This for-profit “university” was not an accredited university or college, did not grant degrees, and is currently facing three law-suits for fraud.
- Trump opposes gun-free zones. He would make schools unsafe by allowing anyone to carry guns on schools grounds.