



BARACK OBAMA ON EDUCATION

SUPPORTS 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS FOR A 21ST CENTURY DEMOCRACY

Innovate to Improve Teacher Quality

Obama has introduced a plan to support school districts that implement innovative methods to improve student learning, working with teacher representatives to support and reward successful educators.

Reform and Fund No Child Left Behind

The goal of No Child Left Behind is the right one, but the law has significant flaws. Unfulfilled funding promises, inadequate implementation, and shortcomings in the design of the law itself have limited its effectiveness. Obama will reform and properly fund No Child Left Behind.

Support Teachers

Obama believes in supporting teachers at all stages of their careers, including paying teachers more; modifying the certification process so qualified individuals can avoid unnecessary coursework and instead become teachers through rigorous programs like teaching residencies; pairing up new teachers with mentors; and giving successful teachers more control over what goes on in their classrooms.

Expand Early Childhood Education

Barack Obama supports increasing funding for the Head Start program to provide preschool children with critically important learning skills. Obama has called on states to replicate the Illinois model of Preschool for All.

Expand Summer Learning Opportunities

Differences in learning opportunities during the summer contribute to the achievement gaps that separate struggling poor and minority students from their middle-class peers. Obama's STEP UP plan supports summer learning opportunities for disadvantaged children through partnerships between local schools and community organizations.

Free Up Money for Student Aid and Protect Student Borrowers

The first bill Obama introduced in the Senate was to help make college more affordable by increasing the maximum Pell Grant from \$4,050 to \$5,100. As president, Obama would eliminate wasteful subsidies to private student lenders, which will save nearly \$6 billion dollars per year, and invest the savings in additional student aid.



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