

Source: <https://www.DonaldJTrump.com/policies/education/>

**Notes:** Sections in red, below, are editorial suggestions to Mr. Trump's Education policy, made by myself.  
~~Gordon Wayne Watts, LAKELAND, Fla.

# Education

## DONALD J. TRUMP'S VISION

### Public Education

- Immediately add an additional federal investment of \$20 billion towards school choice **in Public Education**. This will be done by reprioritizing existing federal dollars.
- Give states the option to allow these funds to follow the student to the public or private school they attend: **if college students can use Pell grants on any college (public or private), why not afford the same opportunity to Public Education, too? This is only fair!** Distribution of this grant will favor states that have private school choice, magnet schools and charter laws, encouraging them to participate. **Immediately, by Executive Order, return all primary & secondary education control back to the states, ending mandates: Each state will develop its own formula, but we want the dollars to follow the student.**
- Establish the national goal of providing school choice to every one of the 11 million school aged children living in poverty.
- If the states collectively contribute another \$110 billion of their own education budgets toward school choice, on top of the \$20 billion in federal dollars, that could provide \$12,000 in school choice funds to every K-12 student who today lives in poverty.

### Higher Education

- **Higher Education should be free from any use of taxpayer dollar to make or guarantee college loans (because the taxpayer is on the hook for these loans). No student loans from tax dollars: per the 'Bill Bennett Hypothesis,' these subsidies cause higher tuition, when colleges see students have 'deep pockets' and jack up costs to match increased borrowing abilities.** [["Catching Up on the Bennett Hypothesis," By SAMANTHA STAINBURN, NY Times, NOV. 1, 2013](#)]
- **Even the nonpartisan New York Fed, in the liberal-leaning state of New York, which used "a Bartik-like approach to identify the effect of increased loan supply on tuition following large policy changes in federal aid program maximums available to undergraduate students that occurred between 2008 and 2010" found "that institutions that were most exposed to these loan limit maximums ahead of the policy changes experienced disproportionate tuition increases around these changes, with effects of changes in institution-specific program maximums of Pell Grant, subsidized."** [["Credit Supply and the Rise in College Tuition: Evidence from the Expansion in Federal Student Aid Programs" Lucca, David \(July 2015\)](#)]
- Work with Congress on reforms to ensure universities are making a good faith effort to reduce the cost of college and student debt in exchange for the federal tax breaks and **limited** tax dollars, **to be used for grants, to "partially" offset the loss in revenue when taxpayer-funded college loans are eliminated.** (To make up for the rest of the shortfall, colleges, which vastly over-spend on many trivial

**programs, will be forced to live within their means, as they did in the past, when college was affordable, yet still the best in the world.)**

- **Immediately eliminate the Federal Department of Education, and re-allocate the \$100 billion per year towards education loans, grants, loan forgiveness, and government debt reduction** [[Education Spending Chart, usgovernmentspending.com](#)]
- **Restore Standard Consumer Protections:** Immediately, extend standard consumer protections to all student loan borrowers, which would ensure servicers are properly held accountable, thus preventing Predatory Lending. Drug users and the criminally insane can take out a line of credit, and run up tons of debt and (although it's hard) still declare bankruptcy. However, student loans are unique among all loans in the lack of standard consumer protections (truth in lending; bankruptcy proceedings; statutes of limits; the right to refinance; adherence to usury laws; and, Fair Debt & Collection practices, etc.) afforded the borrower. If institutions of Higher-Ed knew that students could declare bankruptcy, they would be more apt to charge a fair, free-market value for their product -instead of monopoly-style collusion to keep both tuition principle as well as interest rates high -with garnishment and collection and powers that a mobster would envy.
- **President Trump would ensure colleges & lenders have “skin in the game” by forcing these institutions to share the risk of failure with students, thereby incentivizing them to reduce costs, boost quality, & ensure that students graduate, find a job, and have the skills needed to succeed.**
- **With the tools above, President Trump would** ensure that the opportunity to attend a two or four-year college, or to pursue a trade or a skill set through vocational and technical education, will be easier to access, pay for, and finish.

*Read Mr. Trump's Remarks in [Cleveland, Ohio](#).*

## KEY ISSUES

### Public Education

- At the state and federal level, the United States spends more than \$620 billion on K-12 education each year. That's an average of about \$12,296 for every student enrolled in our elementary and secondary public schools.
- We spend more per student than almost any other major country in the world. Yet, our students perform near the bottom of the pack for major large advanced countries.
- Our students continue to lag behind their peers worldwide in knowledge gained. [[American Federation for Children Growth Fund](#)]
- Among 34 Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development nations, the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) found 27 countries outperformed U.S. students in math. [[National Center for Education Statistics](#)]
- The same assessment found 17 countries outperformed U.S. students in reading. [[National Center for Education Statistics](#)]
- Our largest cities spend some of the largest amounts of money on public schools:
  - New York City spends \$20,226 per student.
  - Baltimore spends \$15,287 per student.
  - Chicago spends \$11,976 per student.
  - Los Angeles spends \$10,602 per student.
- School choice is vital to reverse inequities in education and failing government schools in Democrat-

controlled inner cities. According to the National Assessment of Education Progress, only one in six African-American students in the eighth grade are considered proficient in math and reading. In 2016, over 2 million high school graduates took the ACT:

- 45 percent of all students tested met three or more benchmarks related to college preparedness.
- Only 11 percent of African American students tested met three or more of the benchmarks for college and career readiness. [[The Condition of College and Career Readiness, 2016](#)]
- It is time for school choice to help free children from failing government schools and close the achievement gap. School choice is the civil rights issue of our time.

## Higher Education

- **Crack down on private student loan “relief” companies, working with states' Attorneys General.**
- **Immediately end Social Security offsets (garnishment) for recipients with defaulted student loans.**
- **Work with states to provide more efficient teach-out programs for defunct for-profit colleges and immediate loan forgiveness to victims of closed/sold colleges or those under investigation.** [A "teach-out plan" is a written plan that provides for the equitable treatment of students if an institution of higher education ceases to operate or ceases instruction at one or more locations that provide 100% of at least one degree program or in one or more degree programs before all students have completed their program of study.]

## CONTRAST WITH HILLARY CLINTON

- Hillary opposes school choice, furthering education inequities in America and denying low-income African-American and Latino children the future they deserve.
- **Hillary Clinton claims that she would fix America's Higher Education system, but she had her chance, and was a "do nothing" senator:**
  - **When Mrs. Clinton was a senator, she introduced S.3255 - the “Student Borrower Bill of Rights Act of 2006” [109th Congress (2005-2006)], which was ambitious and impressive - but she quickly dropped this, and never again made any substantive efforts to fix Higher Ed - obviously because banks & corporations were bankrolling her speeches to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars per speech.** [[“Student Borrower Bill of Rights Act of 2006”, \[109th Congress \(2005-2006\)\]](#)
- Hillary Clinton claims Donald Trump’s school choice proposal would “decimate public schools across America.”
  - It is no surprise Mrs. Clinton opposes school choice because she is supported by the staunchest opponents of school choice – The American Federation of Teachers super PAC – which donated \$1.6 million to the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation and more than \$2 million to Hillary’s 2016 presidential campaign. [[Wall Street Journal](#), June 28, 2016]