

POLICY PERSPECTIVES

Decision 2008

The Round of ~~16~~15

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Table of Contents

Start Your Engines! A macro-perspective of the 2008 election campaign <i>Watson Scott Swail, Ed.D.</i>	<i>Page 4</i>
2008 Presidential Primary Schedule	<i>Page 12</i>
Where They Stand on Education: A brief overview of the positions taken by top tier '08 Democrat and Republican Presidential Candidates <i>Ronald C. Willis, Ed.D.</i>	<i>Page 13</i>
The Candidates <i>Rebecca M. Mullen</i>	<i>Page 19</i>
By the Issue	<i>Page 29</i>
What They've Said and What They've Done	<i>Page 30</i>

December 21, 2007

Ladies & Gentlemen...

Start Your Engines!

A macro-perspective of the 2008 election campaign

by Watson Scott Swail, Ed.D.

It used to be that the race for the presidency of the United States of America started in earnest at the opening of the election year. This is hardly the case anymore: the real campaigning started in 2006, a full two-years plus before the 2008 federal election, and some pundits argue that it really began after the 2004 election.

But on January 3, 2008, the preliminaries end and the real race begins. Iowa, the 30th state by size (population 3 million), carries a big stick as the big event of the campaign. Five days later, New Hampshire will weigh in on the primary stage. Together, Iowa and New Hampshire represent less than 3 percent of delegates in both Republican and Democratic parties. But delegates across the country will be watching these litmus tests carefully. Primaries are an interesting phenomenon,

especially this election cycle, where states were tripping over each other trying to “one-up.” Both the Republicans and Democrats had to punish several states for infringing on other states historical primary/caucus dates (see the chart on page 12 for Primary dates).

And after all the debating, waiting, and “punditing,” by the morning of February 6 (the morning after “Super Tuesday, where 24 states choose their delegates for both parties) we should pretty much know who will be representing their respective parties.

This election is of perhaps greater importance than any election in recent memory due to a number of factors.

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First, the incoming president will likely be responsible for getting the US out of a sticky situation in Iraq, continue to deal with the escalating operation in Afghanistan, and come to terms with other pressures in the Middle East and Asia (e.g., Pakistan, Iran, China, North Korea; and it goes on...).

Second, the US economy is anticipated to go into a major recession, due in part to the largest mortgage crisis in US history because of sub-prime loan market; a major trade imbalance with the rest of the world (currently at \$684 billion/year; the size of the entire US military budget), and, of course, the poor dollar which has been hurt in part by the aforementioned issues.

Thus, internationally and domestically, the new president is in for a tough four years, making re-election difficult for either a Democrat or a Republican. This is the “clean up” presidency, much in the same way that Virginia Governor Mark Warner was forced to spend his four years cleaning up the mess left in the Commonwealth by Jim Gilmore (the two just so happen to be running against each other for Senator John Warner’s vacated seat in November 2008; even

the RNC is staying away from this bloodbath).

At first glance, it was largely thought that the Democrats would certainly win the Presidency in 2008. The Bush Administration has lost support across much of the nation, such that even Republican candidates have distanced themselves from the President on most issues. But as this campaign moves forward, the election seems less a referendum on the Bush Administration and more a vote for leadership to weather the impending storms. This election will be waged on political philosophical issues: tax and spend vs. small government.

For Democrats, this isn’t good news. An election in reaction to the Bush Administration was a relatively easy debate. But as is typical in campaigns, the attack mode of Democrats in the primary round is potentially hurting their chances in November.

The Democrats

Of the eight nominees within the Democratic Party, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama are the clear front-runners, having amassed fortunes for advertising and campaigning and also claiming most of the airwaves.

Former Vice Presidential nominee John Edwards and a few other viable candidates are doing anything to get noticed at all. Perhaps as recently as December 1, Clinton was the pencil-in candidate for the Democrats *and* the presidency, but that lead has eroded greatly in a three short weeks due to a PR machine spun out of control. Analysts suggest that voters see Clinton as a vote for “the same,” while the country is looking for “change,” and Obama represents the youth and vitality reminiscent of a 1960 JFK.

Ms. Clinton must deal with the reality that voters are not enamored with the idea of a continuing White House legacy. A Clinton presidential win will result in a White House that has either had a Clinton or Bush sitting in the Oval Office since 1988; 1980 if you include Bush I’s Vice Presidency. And, just to make it interesting, Chelsea is growing her brand in a high-profile job in NYC, sitting in the wings for 2016 or 2020 (just speculative, of course). US politics has always been about legacy; don’t think it isn’t now.

So the “sure thing” Dems are now on a downward spiral that may be difficult to overcome. Clinton’s best hope, as is Edward’s, is that the 8

candidates get narrowed down to 3 or 4. At that point the real comparisons will take place instead of the current eight-ring circus.

The Democrats actually have a good slate of candidates. Joe Biden and Chris Dodd are effective Senators well respected on both sides of the aisle, and Bill Richardson is probably the most prepared and experienced person among them all. But, unfortunately for the Democrats, none will make the cut, with the exception that Richardson is a likely vice presidential candidate as a Latino with a cv which includes governor and ambassador to the UN. Dennis Kucinich has more heart than all of them, but is much too liberal to gain support from the Democratic base. Also, he’ll never rebound from Tim Russert’s incredibly inappropriate slam in the debate (“Tell us about the UFOs”). And Mike Gravel? An interesting guy, but a 77-year old nominee won’t make it with delegates (but he can still push some issues).

Scott’s Pick: The Democrats have great candidates but have an inherent ability to shoot themselves in the foot. Edwards looks more presidential than anyone, but unless something erupts, it’s a Hillary/Barack fight to the end. Biden could

be a great Secretary of State, as would Richardson if he isn't Vice President. Almost all the candidates have the fortitude to play a role in a Democratic cabinet.

The Republicans

The Republican party has also endured great change over the past month. There is clearly no real front-runner on the Republican side. Rudy Guiliani and John McCain were the first focal points for the media, with Romney spending boatloads of his own money which has translated into PR. But the real surprise, if it can be called that, is the recent upsurge of Mike Huckabee, the former Governor of Arkansas (and also from Hope, Arkansas, the home of President Clinton). The former Baptist minister has played his Christian card well, while also using a good sense of humor to bring others into his camp. Even his playing in a rock-n-roll band has helped him be seen by the electorate as a likeable candidate. And likability matters in a presidential election, a point that is all-too-well understood by the Clinton campaign. Huckabee even has the support of Chuck Norris, the martial arts guru who, believe it or not, swings weight around voters in the same vein as NASCAR did in the last two campaigns.

But unlike the Democratic Primary where there really are three electable candidates (Clinton, Edwards, and Obama), the Republican Party is more of a wide-open campaign at this point. Only last week, Ron Paul, a conservative congressman from Texas and a medical doctor to boot, raised \$6 million in one day (Sunday, December 16, 2007) and has raised over \$18 million in this quarter alone; no one even focused on him a month ago. Paul is spearheading traditional right-wing issues such as elimination of the IRS, anti-illegal immigration, and reduction of government and taxes.

As of 9:57 pm EST on December 20th, there are 7 Republican candidates left in the hunt: 8 if you count Alan Keyes, but perennial candidates who attend or are invited to 2 out of the 14 debates don't count. Tom Tancredo literally dropped out this afternoon as we were finalizing this document, leaving the "seven." Of those remaining, five could legitimately win the primary, knowing that Duncan Hunter will be gone and Fred Thompson has definitely proven that he's a better actor than a presidential candidate (even though he had a decent record as a senator).

Scott's Pick: This one is up for grabs, such that the first two primaries could be huge for fundraising. The Democratic race has gotten stagnant and boring; the Republican race is just getting fun. Watch for Huckabee; he's on a great wave and is likable, although the media is already starting to compare him with Bush (and that won't work for the Huck). Ron Paul will continue to make those waves bigger, though, and Romney has more money than... well, he's got a lot of money. McCain is out (He could shake up the Defense Department in either a Republican OR a Democratic Administration); Thompson gone for a nap.

After the Primaries

So, once the primaries are over, who will be the next president and who will take control of Congress? Ah, the easy questions.

After the 2006 election, it seemed like a sure thing that Democrats would have control of the House, the Senate, and the White House, leaving only the judiciary in the hands of the Republicans. But how a year can change everything! Nancy Pelosi has failed as the majority leader, and Harry Reid, a respectful man, has trouble staying awake during press conferences. President Bush,

a lame-duck president, is leading Pelosi and Reid around by the collar, getting almost everything he wants on spending and the War. Democrats haven't taken any real stands on issues and haven't won any of those they've tried to take. This hurts both senators and representatives on the campaign trail in 2008.

If the election were held today, I expect that the Dems would probably retain control of both Houses of Congress but wouldn't see increases in their advantage, which was and remains their hope in 2008. With regard to the Presidency, the straw poll suggests that the White House will still go Democrat, even if Hillary wins the nomination (regardless of huge right wing anti-Hillary venom that aspires to bring her down; it isn't as big an issue as it was in the late 1990s since she has moderated her stance on, well, almost every issue).

But that's today. What remains true is that the US is still a blue state/red state mish-mash, and even with brutal approval ratings for the President and years of Republican bad news (e.g., Jack Abramoff, Tom Delay, Larry Craig, the War, the deficit, the dollar, Guantanamo, the CIA Tapes, Valerie Plame, and this list goes on, too...), Election 2008 will be as close

as ever and it isn't a done deal by any means. For instance, don't expect a presidential voting gap of more than 5 points. Congress could stand still without any major change. As a foreshadowing event, a run-off was held on December 13th for Representative Jo Ann Davis' (R-VA) seat, who died in October after a two-year battle with cancer. The result was an easy victory for Republican Robert Wittman (61 percent). As the Washington Post commented, "Wittman's easy victory could spell trouble for Democrats, who are hoping to pick up one or two congressional seats in Northern Virginia next year." This Virginia Uprising, if it can be named, should be a wakeup call for Democrats.

And Education?

And what about education? I will leave much of this talk to Ron Willis in the next piece, but the arguments on education travel largely upon party lines. The Republicans want to reduce the role of the federal government in a constitutionally-appropriated state right. This coming after seven years of the largest federal intrusion by any Administration into state education rights via the No Child Left Behind Act. Now, Republicans are finally pushing the federal government back in this area, and

the Republican nominee and potential President is likely to make that happen. Additionally, Republican candidates are also talking about tax credits and other mechanisms to increase school choice (vouchers and charter schools) and provide additional tax deductions for higher education.

As with the Republicans, the Democrats are pretty much as one might expect. They want to put more money into education and continue to target issues in education from a federal perspective. They won't get rid of NCLB, but they will change it and they will try and fund it, a cry from the Dems since NCLB was introduced in 2002 (the "unfunded mandate" scenario). In higher education, the Democrats look to expand the Direct Loan program and continue to pressure the banking industry, which is on its heels from both the mortgage debacle and the student loan scandal. Democrats want to increase the Pell Grant and also fully fund other programs for disadvantaged students, including TRIO, GEAR UP, and a number of other programs.

The differences in perspectives on education between the two parties are historic; there appears to be

nothing really new here. The real challenge is that education isn't on the discussion list. In a December 9, 2007 ABC News Washington Post Poll, the number one issue for voters in choosing a new president was the economy (24 percent), followed by the Iraq War (23 percent), health care (10 percent), and terrorism/security (9 percent). One percent of those surveyed listed education as their number one issue.

In research for this monograph, we reviewed all candidate sites and also reviewed newspapers and other venues for information on the education statements of Republican and Democrat candidates. With the exception of a handful of candidates, mostly Democrat, the information on education platforms was disconcertingly low. Of course, as the list pares down, more information will certainly become available, especially when it gets down to a two-person race. But the three front-runners on the Democratic side have carefully outlined education issues while those on the Republican side have provided only minor pieces of information about education.

Beyond the Rhetoric

The hard reality is that the incoming Administration and Congress,

regardless of party affiliation, has some very tough years ahead. The economy will get weaker and the debt larger, and those two issues make it tough to increase spending in any area of public policy. If the Democrats end up in control, the two most viable options to provide funding for their education and other social-net programs are to increase taxes (which they have said they will do by reversing some of Bush's high-income tax deductions) and to reduce the defense budget, which, counting the "War on Terror," accounts for \$627 billion of the FY2008 Presidential budget. Add another \$40 billion for Veterans Affairs and the new total accounts for 60 percent of all US discretionary spending, the part of the budget which houses the US Department of Education. (That department, by the way, has a budget of approximately \$56 billion). In total, the Defense budget has increased 62 percent under President Bush, which doesn't include (nor do the totals above) the Iraq War, which has been funded under appropriated outside of the defense budget. Need more perspective? The US military budget is larger than the 14 next-in-line countries combined and 8 times that of China. Again, none of these comparisons include Iraq war funding.

Thus, a new Administration has their hands full. The US government is hemorrhaging money, spending it far faster than it collects, with mandatory spending programs like Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security programs increasing in need with the baby boomer generation coming of retirement age.

Republican candidates continue to call for more tax cuts, but those can't legitimately happen unless they also choose to make severe cuts in domestic programs and control military spending. The former could happen; the latter is unlikely. Democrats can balance things out if they prudently increase taxes as appropriate (as in repealing high-end tax cuts) and curb defense spending. But in the US "me" economy, that becomes politically difficult if they want to

stay more than one term in office. Regardless, both parties are going to have to wrestle with mandatory spending in the foreseeable future.

The remainder of this monograph on the 2008 Election provides additional perspective on the candidates. Ron Willis of Smith Dawson Andrews, a Washington DC-based government affairs firm, provides his analysis of the candidates. On page 19 we provide a brief description of the 15 remaining candidates, a matrix of candidates by issue on page 29, and information on what the candidates have done, voted, or said, borrowed from *ontheissues.org* on page 30.

We look forward to keeping current on these issues through the primaries and toward November 4, 2008.

2008 Presidential Primary Schedule

STAGE 1				STAGE 2: OTHER DATES			
State	Date	Rep	Dem	State	Date	Rep	Dem
Iowa	January 3	40	56	Kansas	February 9	39	-
Wyoming		6	-	Louisiana	February 9	47	68
New Hampshire	January 8	12	30	Nebraska	February 9	-	31
Michigan*	January 15	30	0	Washington	February 9	18	97
Nevada	January 19	34	33	Maine	February 10	-	34
South Carolina	January 19	24	54	DC	February 12	19	37
Florida*	January 29	57	0	Maryland	February 12	37	99
Maine	February 2	21	-	Virginia	February 12	63	103
				Wisconsin	February 19	40	92
				Washington	February 19	19	-
				Hawaii	February 26	-	29
STAGE 2: SUPER TUESDAY				Hawaii	February 26	20	-
State	Date	Rep	Dem	Ohio	March 4	88	161
Alabama	February 5	48	60	Rhode Island	March 4	20	32
Alaska Convention	February 5	29	18	Texas	March 4	140	228
Arizona Election	February 5	53	67	Vermont	March 4	17	23
Arkansas	February 5	34	47	Wyoming	March 8	-	18
California	February 5	173	441	Mississippi	March 11	39	36
Colorado	February 5	46	71	Pennsylvania	April 22	74	181
Connecticut	February 5	30	61	Indiana	May 6	57	79
Delaware	February 5	18	23	North Carolina	May 6	69	110
Georgia	February 5	72	104	Wyoming	May 10	8	-
Idaho	February 5	-	23	Nebraska	May 13	33	-
Illinois	February 5	70	185	West Virginia	May 13	12	37
Kansas	February 5	-	40	Kentucky	May 20	45	55
Massachusetts	February 5	43	121	Oregon	May 20	30	62
Minnesota	February 5	41	88	Idaho	May 27	32	-
Missouri	February 5	58	88	South Dakota	June 3	27	22
Montana	February 5	25	-	New Mexico	June 3	32	-
New Jersey	February 5	52	127				
New Mexico	February 5	-	38	Puerto Rico	June 1	-	58
New York	February 5	101	280	Other	March	-	37
North Dakota	February 5	26	21				
Oklahoma	February 5	41	47	TOTAL DELEGATES**		2,318	3,966
Tennessee	February 5	55	85				
Utah	February 5	36	29				
West Virginia	February 5	18	-				

*Michigan and Florida had all of its delegates stripped by the Democratic Party for moving their primaries up in the schedule; however, it is expected that these delegates, 157 and 210 respectively, will be counted in some manner. Additionally, The Republican Party penalized Wyoming, New Hampshire, Michigan, South Carolina, and Florida by cutting their delegates in half for the same issue.

**These numbers are approximate due to special situations or rules by the state which allow for adding delegates outside of the primaries, caucuses, or conventions.

Where They Stand on Education

A brief overview of the positions taken by top tier '08 Democrat and Republican Presidential Candidates

by Ronald C. Willis

The next presidential election could be historic for several reasons. To begin, it will be the first time since 1928 that a sitting Vice President will not be running to succeed a sitting President. Once again, the 20th century issues of prosperity at home and peace abroad are at the forefront of the debates in both parties with questions about the state of the economy and the war in Iraq filling daily news papers, cable news, and TV network news programs. And last but not least is the fact that the Democratic candidate could be either a Woman or an African American. Added to these is a shorten primary season when, for the first time, the presidential candidates for both parties will most likely be decided in January and February with key primary's taking place in some of the most populated states.

However, if you have watched the debates of both parties you have to be disturbed at the complete lack of discussion regarding the issues facing primary and secondary education. True, there have been some references to the perceived failure of "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) to achieve its intended goals by Democrats, but little has been suggested for improving or replacing it even though it is currently up for reauthorization. As for Republicans—with the exception of the heated exchange between Mitt Romney and Mike Huckabee over state college education funding for the children of "illegal immigrants" during the CNN/You Tube debate—none of the leading Republican candidates have taken positions during the de-

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bates regarding education nor have the moderators of the debates for both parties included any question regarding education reform.

Notwithstanding the failure to address issues currently facing education during the debates, seven of the leading top-tier candidates in both parties have developed and released indepth education policy papers worth reviewing.

The Republicans

On the Republican side, John McCain and Fred Thompson have released what they consider to be in-depth approaches to education. According to the NY Times, in 2000 McCain called an end to teacher unions, for experimental programs such as school vouchers, merit pay for teachers, and called for judges to allow for voluntary prayer in schools along with the posting of the Ten Commandments in public schools. However, in what would seem a contradictive comment, McCain does not believe that standards for education should be established by the federal government but should be set by the individual states.

To date, McCain has only made a minor comment on education in response to a question raised by a

New Hampshire educator during a town meeting. When asked about NCLB, McCain responded that it's not perfect but a good beginning, and that he supports vouchers and charter schools and believes in choice and competition.

At the same time, Fred Thompson has released a comprehensive approach to education and believes all children in America deserve a quality education and that parents-and-not-government should determine how that is accomplished. Like McCain, Thompson believes NCLB was a good start but thinks that the federal mandates put too many burdens on teaching, causing a lowering of test standards. He is also a believer in letting states and local government implement those changes needed to improve education that could result in bettering the education of children. He sets out three major core principles: more parental control and choice, higher standards, and greater accountability. These core principles would be supported by a new and simplified federal education block grant program that would preserve and support local control of primary and secondary education. There is no mention of the expected cost of these changes.

While not laying out what one might consider a comprehensive K-12 educational plan, Governor Huckabee does address the issue in a broad-based approach. He believes that every child has a right to quality education and supports school choice and the rights of parents to home school. He believes the states have the right and responsibility for education with the federal government working in a supporting role; one that does not usurp the role of the states. Huckabee would push hard for a return of music and the arts to be a fundamental part K-12 education and supports NCLB as long as it used only as a national benchmark approach for quality education and does not intrude on the rights of states to set policy education standards for their respective citizens. However, no overall cost to federal government has been estimated for his recommended changes.

Like Governor Huckabee, Governor Romney believes every child has the right to a quality education and that the states have the right to determine what is needed for its K-12 children. He supports school choice/charter schools and immersing all children regardless of ethnicity in English. He would provide a tax credit to defray the cost of home schooling. He

believes in rewarding high-quality teachers. Romney would improve on NCLB by given states that meet or exceed testing requirements additionally flexibility in supporting student performance and seek to improve NCLB by focusing more attention of individual student performance rather than that of the school. Like Huckabee, no overall cost to the federal government has been estimated for his recommended changes.

Unfortunately, Giuliani and other Republican candidates have not posted education platforms to date.

The Democrats

The three top tier Democrat candidates—Senators Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, and Barack Obama—fared much better in laying out policy papers on education including costs expected to underwrite their policies.

While Senator Clinton is very critical about NCLB to the point it has provided her the support of AFT, she is pushing higher education reform as a way of bettering the lives of young Americans. Her plan covers a wide range of changes in the funding of higher education which she predicts would make it more affordable and

accessible to more Americans. To accomplish this she would do the following:

- Lowering the cost of college through a tuition tax credit to cover more than 50 percent of tuition cost at the average public institution for most families;
- Increasing the Pell Grant;
- Strengthening Community Colleges and training programs;
- Improving college graduation rates;
- Providing additional aid for people who do public service;
- Simplifying student aid; and
- Providing clear information about the real cost of college.

The annual cost for Clinton's higher education program is estimated to be \$8 billion.

Senator Clinton believes the most important doorway into the middle class is education beyond high school. For Primary and Secondary education students she would work to increase the pay of teachers and principals, work to reform and improve NCLB, and increase access to high-quality early education and

work to create Early Head Start. There is no estimated cost assessed for Senator Clinton's K-12 proposals.

Senator Edwards' plan focuses on the following three key issues: early education, teacher quality, and low-performing schools. He would provide federal funding to assist states in creating and expanding high-quality pre-kindergarten programs targeting low income areas with struggling schools. He is pushing for the development of "smart start" partnerships for children under age four to provide a variety of services including, but not limited to, health and child care and parenting programs for young children and their respective families.

Edward's "teacher quality" proposal would provide bonus pay to encourage quality teachers to work in high-poverty schools and includes a \$5,000 incentive bonus for National Board Certified teachers for working in these targeted areas. This plan would include the creation of a National Teachers University modeled after the military's Service Academies with a goal of preparing 1000 teachers yearly to work in high-need schools.

Senator Edwards' third proposal would create a School Success Fund targeting failing schools by providing resources to the schools, and provide turnaround teams of experts to help improve these schools. This plan also calls for 1,000 top college students to be trained to be excellent teachers and placed in the most needy areas and the development of new high-performing schools and small schools (not defined) along with charter and magnet schools that foster social/economic integration. There seems to be no estimated overall cost these proposals

Senator Obama is calling for an \$18 billion education plan to fix what he considers to be the mistakes made by his chief Democratic rivals in supporting NCLB. His plan would encourage universal pre-kindergarten programs without requiring them, expand teacher mentoring programs, and reward teachers with increased pay that would not be tied to standardized test scores. It would remove failing teachers from classrooms to be replaced by competent ones.

Obama calls for a reform of NCLB to ensure all children can meet high standards. He would promote Early Learning Grants to assist states in

creating a seamless education system that would close current gaps in services and enhance quality programs that serve younger children. States would be required to come up with matching funds to be eligible for this program and meet quality education standards and develop strong public private partnerships and ensure that parents are fully involved in the process.

His plan would include an increase in funding for pre-school programs which would include parental participation. The plan would quadruple the number children eligible for Early Head Start and work to insure that all children have access to pre-school. It calls for the creation of a Presidential Early Learning Council to increase collaboration and program coordination between federal state and local entities. It also includes a strategic plan for improving the quality of class room teachers would improve recruitment, preparation, retaining and rewarding class room teachers. He proposes giving more high school student access to rigorous college-level courses, giving students greater opportunities for College-level/AP courses in high school.

An in depth examination of the Clinton, Edwards, and Obama plans

suggest that a combination of all three could produce significant changes in K-12 and higher education.

It should be noted that the above was taken from each candidate's website, newspaper reports, and other analysis. Each plan will continue to be reviewed through the primary election general election periods.

The Candidates

compiled by Rebecca M. Mullen

Democratic Candidates

Joseph R. Biden, Jr.



Age: 65

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Experience: U.S. Senator (Delaware); Senate Judiciary Committee (Chairman 1987-1995); Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs (present Chairman); Senate Foreign Relations Committee (present Chairman); Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control (present Chairman); Adjunct professor of law, Widener Law School.

Quality Information: ★★★★★

Position on Education: Senator Biden believes that in addition to the current K-12 schooling system, every child should have access to both preschool and postsecondary education. He would fully fund Head Start and Early Head Start, and would provide state grants to expand state-funded preschool to ensure that every child has access to two years of preschool. Senator Biden would also provide grants to school districts who wished to expand learning time for K-

12 students, either by lengthening the school day or lengthening the school year. Upon high school graduation, Senator Biden argues that all students should have access to postsecondary education. To provide for this, he would provide the \$3,000 ACCESS refundable tax credit (which is equivalent to a \$12,000 deduction) to cover the cost a two-year college education, or half of a four-year degree. ACCESS would replace two current tax incentives: the Hope Scholarship Fund and the tuition and fees deduction. Low-income students would be eligible for both the ACCESS refund and Pell grants, which would be incrementally from a maximum Pell grant of \$4,310 to a maximum of \$6,300 by 2011-2012.

Senator Biden believes that in order to attract highly qualified teachers to service in public schools, it is necessary to be able to promise them competitive wages. He would raise teacher pay and fund teacher induction and mentorship programs, so that the teaching profession would attract “the best and brightest.” Class sizes would also be made smaller so that children and teachers could have more one-on-one interactions.

QUALITY OF INFORMATION

Each candidate was assessed for the amount of information provided on their education stance, the detail of this information, and the ease of its accessibility. They were not judged on their positions. Candidates were rated on a five-star scale based on our assessment, with ★= information was largely non-existent and ★★★★★= information was copious, detailed, and easily accessible from the campaign website or campaign directly. This index is provided simply to give the reader an indication of the available information. Short commentaries on a candidate’s “position on education” may only be due to the information that was readily available for analysis.

Hillary Rodham Clinton



Age: 60

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Experience: US Senator (NY); Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works; Senate Armed Services Committee; Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Senate Special Committee on Aging; First Lady of the United States; Partner, Rose Law Firm; Associate, Rose Law Firm; Professor of Law, University of Arkansas; Attorney, House Judiciary Committee presidential impeachment inquiry; Attorney, Children’s Defense Fund.

Quality of Information: ★★★★★

Position on Education: Senator Clinton believes that education needs to start before the standard K-12 system begins its work with students. For this reason, she will sponsor a federal-state partnership to make pre-K universal, and free for low-income and English limited households. In this partnership, the federal government will match any investment by the state dollar for dollar, up to \$10 billion nation-wide over the course of five years. She will also expand early Head Start.

Senator Clinton also believes that it is necessary for the United States “village”

as a whole to ensure the success of its at-risk youths. If elected, she will double the federal funding for early intervention mentoring programs, to lower the number of dropouts. She will also use \$100 million over five years to put a Summer Internship program into place, so that at-risk youth will be occupied in a constructive, educational work environment during the summers. For those who have already left school early, Senator Clinton will double the number of education and job training opportunities over five years, and will invest \$250 million in the development of local education and job training programs.

Christopher Dodd

Age: 63

Party Affiliation: Democrat



Experience: U.S. Senator; Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs (Chairman); Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Senate Committee on Rules and Administration; U.S. Representative; Peace Corps.

Quality of Information: ★★★★★

Position on Education: Senator Dodd believes that children should start their

educations before they reach K-12. He therefore would start the Pre-K Incentive Fund, which would match state funds dollar for dollar to provide universal preschool. This preschool would be free for all four year old children with family incomes under \$50,000. Dodd would also increase funds to Head Start. For students who enter the K-12 system, Senator Dodd would reform NCLB laws to include multiple measures for assessing schools, not just test scores. He would establish national standards for schools, and would provide funds to match any state funds spent on districts who wish to lengthen their school days. Senator Dodd would also pay for the certification of any teacher who commits to teaching in a low-performing, high poverty school for five years, and would provide a \$10,000 salary supplement to those teachers.

Dodd would insure that every 9th grader in the U.S. has a graduation plan to make sure they are on track for college and the workforce the moment they enter high school. He would also ask every Governor to raise the age for compulsory school attendance to 18. For those who wished to attend college, Dodd would match dollar-for-dollar any tuition reduction offered by the state, up to 50 percent of tuition, for community college education. Theoretically, that means that any student in a state which offers a 50 percent subsidy on community college would receive his or her education for free. Dodd would also raise Pell Grant maximum amounts by \$100 per year, and would publish a tuition inflation index to spotlight schools whose tuition unreasonably outpaces inflation.

John Edwards



Age: 54

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Experience: U.S. Senator (NC); Director, Center on Poverty, Work, and Opportunity, University of North Carolina School of Law; Partner, Edwards & Kirby; Partner, Tharrington, Smith, & Hargrove; Associate, Tharrington, Smith, and Hargrove; Associate, Dearborn & Ewing; Law Clerk, Office of Judge Franklin T. Dupree Jr., United States District Court for the Eastern District

Quality of Information: ★★★★★

Position on Education: Edwards will lead the way toward universal preschool by providing resources to states to help them offer “Great Promise” universal high-quality programs for four-year olds. He will also help other states duplicate North Carolina’s innovative Smart Start program that links together health care, child care, education, and family support services for children under five, prioritizing children who are not served by other pre-K programs. He also believes that the student-teacher relationship is the most important aspect of school, and will therefore increase teacher pay for those who mentor other teachers, all teachers in successful high poverty schools, and those with national

certification for excellence. He would overhaul NCLB to expand measures of success. For those students who have already dropped out, Edwards would form Second Chance Schools to help people come back to school and earn diplomas on felexible schedules and locations.

For high school graduates, Edwards will pass a College for Everyone program, which would pay for tuition, fees, and books for more than two million students. In return, those students work part-time, take college prep in high school, and stay out of trouble. Edwards will also simplify the student aid application and help every Title I high school hire an additional counselor.

Mike Gravel



Age: 77

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Experience: U.S. Senator (AK); Speaker of Alaska House of Representatives; Alaska State Representative; Founder, the Democracy Foundation; Real Estate Developer in Alaska; U.S. Army.

Quality of Information: ★

Position on Education: Senator Gravel supports the government funding of pre-K through higher education. He believes

that this will help shrink the ranks of those in America who are “condemned to a substandard economic existence.”

Dennis Kucinich



Age: 60

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Experience: U.S. Representative from Ohio; Ohio State Senator; Mayor of Cleveland; Cleveland City Council; Clerk of Courts, Ceveland Municipal Court; Consultant, Publicly Owned Electric Systems; President, Marketing and Communications Firm; Teacher, Communications and Political Science, Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland State University; Commu-nications Entrepreneur, Software and Public Relations.

Quality of Information: ★★★

Position on Education: Kucinich ad-vocates free public education for all from preschool at age three through tuition-free college at public universi-ties, which he would pay for by cutting the Pentagon budget by 15 percent. He would triple the Head Start budget, al-lowing the centers to run for a full day and increasing the number of children eligible for the program. Kucinich is against school vouchers, arguing that

they take precious funds away from the public school system. He also doesn't like the amount of testing that students go through in America every year, and thinks that students' time would be better spent in creative writing, art, and music classes than it would be spent being taught to tests.

Barack Obama



Age: 46

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Experience: U.S. Senator (IL); Illinois State Senator; Lecturer, University of Chicago Law School; Attorney, Miner Barnhill & Galland.

Quality of Information: ★★★★★

Position on Education: Senator Obama would increase funding for Head Start. He would also make teachers who are successful and/or take on new responsibilities eligible for pay increases beyond their base salaries. Obama believes that the goal of NCLB is the right one—ensuring that all children can meet high standards—but that the law needs to be reformed to fix a few major flaws. He would reform NCLB and fully fund it. Further, he would work with teachers, states, and school districts to develop more reliable and useful measures of

student success. During the summer months, Senator Obama proposes the “STEP UP” plan to support summer learning opportunities for disadvantaged children through partnerships between local schools and community organizations.

For students hoping to attend college, Senator Obama will increase Pell Grant amounts from the current maximum of \$4,050 to a new maximum of \$5,400. He would also eliminate subsidies to private loan lenders and support instead the Direct Loan program and invest the \$6 for every \$100 saved through the elimination of subsidies in student aid.

Bill Richardson



Age: 60

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Experience: Governor of New Mexico; U.S. Secretary of Energy; U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations; U.S. Representative from New Mexico; Richardson Trade Group; Staffer, Senate Foreign Relations Committee; Legislative Management Officer, Congressional Relations, State Department.

Quality of Information: ★★★★★

Position on Education: Governor Richardson will create a program for uni-

versal full-day pre-K for all four year old children, and will fully fund Head Start. He would reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, but would eliminate NCLB. Richardson would raise starting salaries for teachers to \$40,000, and would hire an additional 100,000 teachers nationally. He would invest \$1 billion per year in state dropout prevention programs to encourage the one million students who drop out each year to stay in school. Governor Richardson wishes to reinstate arts, music,

and physical education in schools. He will expand LEAP and GEAR UP for children, and for college students will allow the federal government to forgive two years of college loans for every year of community service performed. Governor Richardson would also eliminate the FASFA.

Republican Candidates

Rudy Giuliani



Age: 63

Party Affiliation: Republican

Experience: Partner, Bracewell & Giuliani, LLP; Cairman and Chief Executive Officer, Giuliani Partners, LLC; Mayor, New York City; U.S. Attorney.

Quality of Information: ★

Position on Education: Rudy Giuliani is a strong supporter of school choice, believing that it is one of the great civil rights issues of our time. He also believes in merit pay for teachers.

Mike Huckabee



Age: 51

Party Affiliation: Republican

Experience: Governor of Arkansas; National Governors Association (former Chairman); Educational Committee of the States (former Chairman).

Quality of Information: ★★★

Position on Education: Huckabee believes in school choice and homeschooling. He also believes that there is value in NCLB, but he would reshape the law

so that states would develop their own benchmarks for educational achievement. He stresses the art and music education in his platform, and its importance in helping students in other areas of their educations. He opposes teacher unions and supports the Fair Dismissal Law, which allows districts to fire poorly performing teachers.

Duncan Hunter



Age: 59

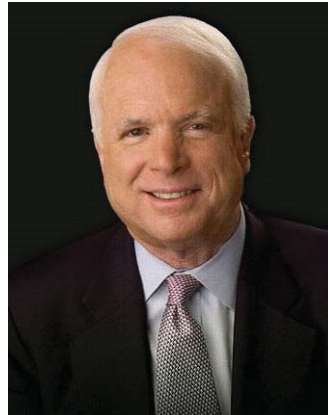
Party Affiliation: Republican

Experience: U.S. Representative from California; House Armed Services Committee (Chairman); Attorney; U.S. Army.

Quality of Information: ★

Position on Education: Hunter is in favor of school vouchers so that parents have greater choice in where their children are educated. He also believes that education should be handed over to the state and local authorities, rather than the federal government, and would streamline the duties of the Department of Education so that it would work well with state and local governments.

John McCain



Age: 71

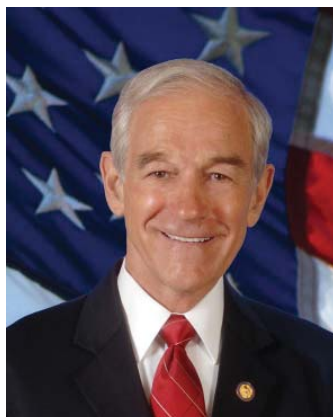
Party Affiliation: Republican

Experience: U.S. Senator (AZ); U.S. Representative from Arizona; Senate Navy Liason; United States Navy.

Quality of Information: ★★

Position on Education: According to the NY Times in 2000 McCain called an end to teacher unions, and called for judges to allow for voluntary prayer in schools along with the posting of the Ten Commandments in public schools. McCain does not believe that standards for education should be established by the federal government but should be set by the individual states. McCain supports vouchers and charter schools and he stressed choice and competition.

Ron Paul



Age: 72

Party Affiliation: Republican

Experience: U.S. Representative from Texas; Obstetrician and Gynecologist; Founder and honorary chairman, Foundation for Rational Economics and Education; Flight Surgeon, U.S. Air National Guard; Flight Surgeon and captain, U.S. Air Force.

Quality of Information: ★★

Position on Education: Paul believes that the federal government has no constitutional right to fund or control schools. He would abolish the Department of Education and return full control and funding to the states. He is for giving parents tax credit if they attend private school to encourage school choice. He will also give full-time elementary and secondary teachers yearly tax credit to ease their financial burden and encourage them to stay in an underpaid profession.

Mitt Romney



Age: 60

Party Affiliation: Republican

Experience: ★★

Position on Education: Governor Romney will promote school choice and tax credit for families of homeschooled children, because he believes that competition between schools for students will increase the quality of education for all. He will retain but change NCLB so that successful schools have more means of assessing school progress. Romney supports merit pay for teachers, and other initiatives to get high quality educators into high needs schools.

Fred Thompson



Age: 65

Party Affiliation: Republican

Experience: Character Actor; Former U.S. Senator; Lobbyist; co-counsel to the Senate Watergate Committee; campaign manager for former Senator Howard Baker; assistant U.S. attorney in Tennessee.

Quality of Information: ★

Position on Education: Thompson believes that federal involvement in schools has become part of the problem due to its overly intrusive nature. He would return control and funds of schools to the state and local governments, which he believes knows the needs of the students better than the federal government can. He is for school choice and school vouchers, and competition in general.

By the Issue

EPI conducted a brief analysis on various education issues from the stated platforms of candidates. “--” denotes no information available.

Candidate	Age	Party	NCLB	Vouchers	School Choice	Merit Pay	School Prayer	Academic Standards
Biden	65	D	reform	no	yes	yes	--	national
Clinton	60	D	reform	no	yes, public only	yes	yes, voluntary	--
Dodd	63	D	reform	no	--	yes	no	national
Edwards	54	D	reform	no	--	yes	--	national
Giuliani	63	R	--	yes	--	--	no	--
Gravel	77	D	--	yes	--	yes	--	--
Huckabee	51	R	--	--	--	--	yes	--
Hunter	59	R	--	yes	yes	--	yes	states
Kucinich	60	D	no	NO	no	--	no	--
McCain	71	R	reform	yes	--	yes	yes, voluntary	states
Obama	46	D	reform	--	--	--	--	--
Paul	72	R	--	yes	yes	--	yes	--
Richardson	60	D	no	yes/no	yes, public only	--	--	--
Romney	60	R	reform	yes	yes	yes	--	st/local
Thompson	60	R	reform	yes	yes	--	--	--

Candidate	Universal Pre-K	Universal PSE	Pell Grant	Teacher Salaries	FASFA	College Tax Credits	NEA Rating
Biden	yes	cc	raise to \$6300	raise	keep	yes, \$3000	91%
Clinton	yes	--	adjust annually	raise	eliminate	yes, \$3500	82%
Dodd	yes	cc	Raise \$100/yr	raise	--	no	82%
Edwards	yes	cc and p.u.	--	raise	simplify	no	83%
Giuliani	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Gravel	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Huckabee	--	--	--	raise	--	--	--
Hunter	--	--	--	--	--	--	17%
Kucinich	yes	pub uni.	--	--	--	--	90%
McCain	--	--	--	--	--	--	45%
Obama	yes	yes, B-av	raise to \$5400	raise	--	--	--
Paul	--	--	--	--	--	--	67%
Richardson	yes	--	--	raise	eliminate	--	--
Romney	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Thompson	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

What They've Said and What They've Done

ontheissues.org, a non-profit, non-partisan effort, has documented the backgrounds of candidates in a number of areas, including education. Information in this section was borrowed from *ontheissues.org*.

Joe Biden on Education

Democratic Senior Senator (DE)

- \$3000 tax credit for college for anyone earning under \$150K. (Sep 2007)
- There needs to be performance-based pay for teachers. (Aug 2007)
- Teach sex ed in schools; including prevention methods. (Aug 2007)
- Sent kids to private school after death of their mother. (Jul 2007)
- Overcome racial achievement gap with early education. (Jun 2007)
- Pay teachers more to get better educational results. (Apr 2007)
- FactCheck: Japan pays teachers more, but not India & China. (Apr 2007)
- NCLB needs more resources, but also is fundamentally flawed. (Feb 2007)
- Princeton was last Ivy holdout to admit women & minorities. (Jan 2006)

Voting Record

- Voting for No Child Left Behind was a mistake. (Jul 2007)
- Voted YES on \$52M for "21st century community learning centers". (Oct 2005)
- Voted YES on \$5B for grants to local educational agencies. (Oct 2005)
- Voted YES on shifting \$11B from corporate tax loopholes to education. (Mar 2005)
- Voted YES on funding smaller classes instead of private tutors. (May 2001)
- Voted YES on funding student testing instead of private tutors. (May 2001)

- Voted YES on spending \$448B of tax cut on education & debt reduction. (Apr 2001)
- Voted YES on Educational Savings Accounts. (Mar 2000)
- Voted YES on education savings accounts. (Jun 1998)
- Voted NO on school vouchers in DC. (Sep 1997)
- Voted YES on \$75M for abstinence education. (Jul 1996)
- Voted NO on requiring schools to allow voluntary prayer. (Jul 1994)
- Voted YES on national education standards. (Feb 1994)
- Rated 91% by the NEA, indicating pro-public education votes. (Dec 2003)

Hillary Clinton on Education

Democratic Jr Senator (NY)

- We have not yet reached consensus on education reform. (Sep 2007)
- Incentive pay for school wide performance. (Aug 2007)
- Universal pre-kindergarten; and make family the best school. (Aug 2007)
- Working families cannot participate in school between 9 & 3. (Jul 2007)
- It takes a village; American village has failed our children. (Jun 2007)
- Establish right to education from pre-school thru college. (Jun 2007)
- Supports public school choice; but not

private nor parochial. (Oct 2006)

- Transfer tax cuts from rich & corporations to student aid. (Jun 2006)
- Teacher testing only for new teachers. (Oct 2000)
- Testing only new teachers respects professionalism. (Oct 2000)
- Reforms: teacher corps; more federal funding; modernize. (Sep 2000)
- Buffalo teacher's strike inappropriate; hope for negotiation. (Sep 2000)
- Opposes merit pay for individual teachers. (Apr 2000)
- Supports merit pay for entire schools. (Apr 2000)
- Scholarships for teachers who go to urban schools. (Mar 2000)
- Increase resources to meet increased standards. (Mar 2000)
- Hold kids to high standards, starting at home. (Jul 1999)
- Address teacher shortage with salary increases. (Jul 1999)
- Teachers need more peer consulting & more recognition. (Jul 1999)
- Social promotion cheats our children. (Jul 1999)
- More after-school; smaller classes. (Jul 1999)
- Read to young kids 20-30 minutes daily. (Jul 1999)
- Entire school staff should focus on school safety. (Jul 1999)
- Metal detectors at school are not much of an intrusion. (Jun 1999)
- Arts education is needed in our schools. (Sep 1998)
- Give kids after-school activities to prevent gangs. (Apr 1998)
- Allow student prayer, but no religious instruction. (Sep 1996)
- Supports structured inner-city schools, with uniforms. (May 1996)

Arkansas Ed Reform

- AR Ed Reform taught that there is a place for testing. (Sep 2007)
- Sent Chelsea to public schools in Arkansas, but not DC. (Jul 2007)
- AR Reform plan pushed mandatory teacher testing. (Nov 2003)
- Arkansas education: improvement against great odds. (Oct 2000)
- Pushed teacher testing in Arkansas. (Dec 1999)
- AR ed reform: mandate kindergarten, no social promotion. (Dec 1999)
- Passing illiterate students is educational fraud. (Sep 1983)

School Choice

- Total change in No Child Left Behind. (Aug 2007)
- More teachers, smaller classes, no vouchers. (Oct 2000)
- Vouchers would take money from public schools. (Oct 2000)
- Vouchers drain money from public schools. (Sep 2000)
- Fight with Gore for public schools; no voucher "gimmicks". (Mar 2000)
- Vouchers will not improve our public schools. (Jul 1999)
- Let's build up our schools-not tear them down. (Jul 1999)
- Charter schools provide choice within public system. (Jul 1999)
- Charters meet needs of failing public school students. (Aug 1998)
- Vouchers siphon off much-needed resources. (Aug 1998)
- Parents can choose, but support public schools. (Feb 1997)

Voting Record

- Solemn vow never to abandon our public schools. (Jul 1999)

- Voted YES on \$52M for "21st century community learning centers". (Oct 2005)
- Voted YES on \$5B for grants to local educational agencies. (Oct 2005)
- Voted YES on shifting \$11B from corporate tax loopholes to education. (Mar 2005)
- Voted YES on funding smaller classes instead of private tutors. (May 2001)
- Voted YES on funding student testing instead of private tutors. (May 2001)
- Voted YES on spending \$448B of tax cut on education & debt reduction. (Apr 2001)
- Rated 82% by the NEA, indicating pro-public education votes. (Dec 2003)

Chris Dodd on Education

Democratic Sr Senator (CT)

- Advocate for free community-college education. (Sep 2007)
- Incentive pay for tougher schools, but not performance pay. (Aug 2007)
- Daughter attends public school. (Jul 2007)
- Reform No Child Left Behind to invest in failing schools. (Jul 2007)
- Tragedy that Supreme Court overturns Brown desegregation. (Jul 2007)
- Shame of resegregation has been occurring in our schools. (Jun 2007)
- Highest priority is equal educational opportunity. (Jun 2007)
- Voted YES on \$52M for "21st century community learning centers". (Oct 2005)
- Voted YES on \$5B for grants to local educational agencies. (Oct 2005)
- Voted YES on shifting \$11B from corporate tax loopholes to education. (Mar 2005)
- Voted YES on funding smaller classes instead of private tutors. (May 2001)

- Voted YES on funding student testing instead of private tutors. (May 2001)
- Voted YES on spending \$448B of tax cut on education & debt reduction. (Apr 2001)
- Voted NO on Educational Savings Accounts. (Mar 2000)
- Voted NO on allowing more flexibility in federal school rules. (Mar 1999)
- Voted NO on education savings accounts. (Jun 1998)
- Voted NO on school vouchers in DC. (Sep 1997)
- Voted NO on \$75M for abstinence education. (Jul 1996)
- Voted NO on requiring schools to allow voluntary prayer. (Jul 1994)
- Voted YES on national education standards. (Feb 1994)
- More foreign languages courses and exchange students. (Feb 2001)
- Rated 82% by the NEA, indicating pro-public education votes. (Dec 2003)

John Edwards on Education

2000 Democratic Nominee for Vice President; Former Jr Senator (NC)

- Make community colleges & public universities free. (Sep 2007)
- Think of education as a birth-to-death experience in America. (Sep 2007)
- Teach in public school that we embrace same-sex parents. (Aug 2007)
- Sent all four kids to public schools. (Jul 2007)
- Appoint judges with backbone to desegregate schools. (Jul 2007)
- College for Everyone: tuition paid, for 10 hrs/week work. (Jun 2007)
- Invest in rural community colleges as practical job training. (Apr 2007)

- College for Everyone pilot: \$300,000 to 80 N.C. students. (Apr 2007)
- Create "Second Chance" schools to get dropouts back on track. (Apr 2007)
- FactCheck: NCLB might be underfunded, but it grew 58%. (Oct 2004)
- No Child Left Behind is much underfunded. (Oct 2004)
- Give public schools the resources that they need. (Jul 2004)
- Higher teacher pay in low-income schools. (Mar 2004)
- Two public school systems: one for rich, one for others. (Feb 2004)
- When schools fail, bring in expertise and resources. (Feb 2004)
- Private school vouchers drain resources from public schools. (Jan 2004)
- Two school systems: one for the have's, one for have-not's. (Sep 2003)
- Pay for college tuition in exchange for part-time work. (Aug 2003)
- New Deal for Teachers: more pay & scholarships. (Aug 2003)
- Free first year of college for all willing to work for it. (Jun 2003)
- Voted YES on funding smaller classes instead of private tutors. (May 2001)
- Voted YES on funding student testing instead of private tutors. (May 2001)
- Voted YES on spending \$448B of tax cut on education & debt reduction. (Apr 2001)
- Voted NO on Educational Savings Accounts. (Mar 2000)
- Voted YES on declaring that memorial prayers and religious symbols at sch. (May 1999)
- Voted NO on allowing more flexibility in federal school rules. (Mar 1999)
- Rated 83% by the NEA, indicating pro-public education votes. (Dec 2003)

Rudy Giuliani on Education

Former Mayor of New York City; Republican Candidate for 2000 Senate (NY)

- Empower parents to decide parochial, charter, or home school. (Oct 2007)
- NYC public school system dysfunctional & should be blown up. (Oct 2007)
- Attended Catholic high school in Brooklyn. (Jan 2007)
- Cut city funding for offensive art at Brooklyn Museum. (Oct 2002)
- Schools should focus on educating kids, not protecting jobs. (Oct 2002)
- Open schools on weekends for remedial catch-up. (Jan 2001)
- Sell Board of Ed HQ to shrink it. (Mar 2000)
- Improve schools by taking on the unions & special interests. (Jan 2000)
- Reading projects offer tutoring & improve test score. (Dec 1999)
- \$50M for more art teachers & art programs. (Dec 1999)
- Replace Board of Ed with appointed commissioner. (Apr 1999)
- Opposes prayer in school. (Apr 1989)

School Choice

- Supports vouchers and supports using the word vouchers. (Oct 2002)
- Privatize failing schools. (Jan 2000)
- Charter Schools create competition. (Jan 2000)
- Voucher program for New York City. (Jan 2000)
- Experiment in NYC with school vouchers. (Apr 1999)

Mike Gravel on Education

Former Democratic Senator (AK)

- Extend school day and extend school year. (Sep 2007)
- Our school stats fail because we're stuck in triumphalism. (Sep 2007)
- Supports merit pay for teachers; make education top priority. (Aug 2007)
- Sent kids to some private school; likes a little competition. (Jul 2007)
- US schools fail because we're yoked by military. (Feb 2007)
- Citizen Power includes school vouchers. (Jan 2007)
- Vouchers are innovative & imaginative-let's experiment. (Jan 1972)
- 25% bonus for teachers in hardship areas. (Jan 1972)

Mike Huckabee on Education

Republican AR Governor

- Impeach judges for barring legislature prayers to Jesus. (Sep 2007)
- Equal funds for abstinence as contraceptive-based education. (Sep 2007)
- Tax-credited programs for Christian schooling. (Sep 2007)
- I'm running for president, not writing science curriculum. (Jun 2007)
- Ending school prayer was one step in society's moral decay. (Jun 2007)
- SmartStart: early character-based education. (Jun 2007)
- Does not believe in evolution. (May 2007)
- Sends his kids to public school; says other officials should. (Jan 2007)
- Reformed AR education with Smart Start & Next Step. (Jan 2007)
- Incorporate character education into

school curriculum. (Jan 2007)

- Authorize & advance more charter schools. (Jan 2007)
- Replace entire school board for failing schools. (Jan 2007)
- Supported creation of Arkansas charter schools. (Dec 2006)
- Raise teacher salaries; hire more teachers. (Nov 2002)
- Support displaying the Ten Commandments in public schools. (Nov 2002)
- First priority: Raise teacher salaries. (Jan 2001)

Duncan Hunter on Education

Republican Representative (CA-52)

- Make schools community-based with no mandated integration. (Sep 2007)
- Don't impeach judges for decisions on legislature prayers. (Sep 2007)
- Present scientific facts that support creationism. (Sep 2007)
- Equal funds for abstinence as contraceptive-based education. (Sep 2007)
- Schools forfeit funds if they expose kids to gay propaganda. (Sep 2007)
- Supports vouchers & home schooling. (Sep 2007)
- Voted NO on allowing Courts to decide on "God" in Pledge of Allegiance. (Jul 2006)
- Voted NO on \$84 million in grants for Black and Hispanic colleges. (Mar 2006)
- Voted YES on allowing school prayer during the War on Terror. (Nov 2001)
- Voted YES on requiring states to test students. (May 2001)
- Voted YES on allowing vouchers in DC schools. (Aug 1998)

- Voted YES on vouchers for private & parochial schools. (Nov 1997)
- Voted YES on giving federal aid only to schools allowing voluntary prayer. (Mar 1994)
- Rated 17% by the NEA, indicating anti-public education votes. (Dec 2003)
- Supports a Constitutional Amendment for school prayer. (May 1997)

Dennis Kucinich on Education **Democratic Representative (OH-10)**

- Free education from pre-kindergarten to college. (Sep 2007)
- Fund universal pre-K with 15% cut in Pentagon budget. (Aug 2007)
- Teach sex ed in schools; including AIDS prevention. (Aug 2007)
- Sent kids to public school; apply that to all kids. (Jul 2007)
- Stop funding war, start funding education; 15% DoD reduction. (Jun 2007)
- Constitutional amendment guaranteeing equal opportunity. (Jun 2007)
- Quality education is a core American right. (Nov 2006)
- Vouchers divert public money away from public schools. (Jan 2004)
- Stop making us a nation of test-takers: free education. (Jan 2004)
- Establish universal pre-kindergarten programs. (Aug 2003)
- Keep public education separate from private education. (Jul 1996)
- Voted NO on allowing Courts to decide on "God" in Pledge of Allegiance. (Jul 2006)
- Voted YES on \$84 million in grants for Black and Hispanic colleges. (Mar 2006)
- Voted NO on allowing school prayer

- during the War on Terror. (Nov 2001)
- Voted YES on requiring states to test students. (May 2001)
- Voted NO on allowing vouchers in DC schools. (Aug 1998)
- Voted NO on vouchers for private & parochial schools. (Nov 1997)
- Reduce class size to 18 children in grades 1 to 3. (Mar 2001)
- Teacher development grants to improve math & science classes. (Jan 2001)
- Opposes requiring schools to allow school prayer. (Jan 2001)
- Rated 90% by the NEA, indicating pro-public education votes. (Dec 2003)

John McCain on Education **Republican Sr Senator (AZ)**

- Teaching creationism should be decided by school districts. (Jun 2007)
- Believes in evolution, but sees the hand of God in nature. (May 2007)
- Against nationally imposed standards & funding strings. (Feb 2000)
- Teach virtues in all schools. (Dec 1999)
- Enlist retirees for tutoring. (Nov 1999)
- Good teachers should earn more than bad lawyers. (Oct 1999)
- Decisions on teaching evolution should be made locally. (Aug 1999)
- Help unqualified teachers find other lines of work. (Jul 1999)
- Supports tax-free savings accounts for education expenses. (Jul 1999)
- Supports "Reading Excellence"; and rewarding good schools. (Jul 1999)
- Supports at-risk programs; homeless ed.; anti-drop-out ed. (Jul 1999)
- Internet access, with filters, at every school & library. (Jun 1999)
- Merit pay & competency testing for

teachers. (Jun 1999)

- Ed-ACT Bill: college plans; language proficiency. (May 1999)

School Choice

- Local charters are the best Arizona schools. (Mar 2000)
- Let states decide if they link vouchers to student testing. (Feb 2000)
- Use sugar, oil, and ethanol subsidies to finance vouchers. (Jan 2000)
- Tax breaks for charters - not from public school funds. (Dec 1999)
- Vouchers & charters will improve our school system. (Oct 1999)
- Nationwide test of school vouchers. (Sep 1999)
- \$5B program for 3-year test of school vouchers. (Jul 1999)
- Tax-funded vouchers for private schools or charter schools. (Jun 1999)
- Shift policy-making from bureaucrats to parents. (May 1999)
- Vouchers needed where teachers fail. (May 1999)
- Vouchers for any schools; more charter schools. (Jul 1998)

Voting Record

- Unrestricted block grants--let states decide spending. (Feb 2000)
- Voted NO on \$52M for "21st century community learning centers". (Oct 2005)
- Voted NO on \$5B for grants to local educational agencies. (Oct 2005)
- Voted NO on shifting \$11B from corporate tax loopholes to education. (Mar 2005)
- Voted NO on funding smaller classes instead of private tutors. (May 2001)
- Voted NO on funding student testing instead of private tutors. (May 2001)
- Voted NO on spending \$448B of tax cut

on education & debt reduction. (Apr 2001)

- Voted YES on declaring that memorial prayers and religious symbols at sch. (May 1999)
- Voted YES on allowing more flexibility in federal school rules. (Mar 1999)
- Voted YES on education savings accounts. (Jun 1998)
- Voted YES on school vouchers in DC. (Sep 1997)
- Voted YES on \$75M for abstinence education. (Jul 1996)
- Voted YES on requiring schools to allow voluntary prayer. (Jul 1994)
- Voted NO on national education standards. (Feb 1994)
- Focus educational resources to help those with greatest need. (Jul 2001)
- Require state standards, regular assessments, and sanctions. (Jul 2001)
- Support Ed-Flex: more flexibility if more accountable. (Jul 2001)
- Rated 45% by the NEA, indicating a mixed record on public education. (Dec 2003)

Barack Obama on Education Democratic Jr Senator (IL)

- We need a sense of urgency about improving education system. (Sep 2007)
- Nationwide program to reconstruct crumbling school buildings. (Sep 2007)
- STEP UP: summer learning opportunities for disadvantaged. (Aug 2007)
- We left the money behind for No Child Left Behind. (Aug 2007)
- Pay "master teachers" extra, but with buy-in from teachers. (Aug 2007)
- Sends kids to private school; but wants good schools for all. (Jul 2007)

- Supreme Court was wrong on school anti-integration ruling. (Jul 2007)
- Incentives to hire a million teachers over next decade. (Jun 2007)
- Pay teachers more money & treat them like professionals. (Jun 2007)
- Public school system status quo is indefensible. (Oct 2006)
- More teacher pay in exchange for more teacher accountability. (Oct 2006)
- Guarantee affordable life-long, top-notch education. (Jun 2006)
- Provide decent funding and get rid of anti-intellectualism. (Jul 2004)
- Address the growing achievement gap between students. (May 2004)
- Will add 25,000 teachers in high-need areas. (May 2004)
- Supports charter schools and private investment in schools. (Jul 1998)
- Free public college for any student with B-average. (Jul 1998)

Voting Record

- First Senate bill: increase Pell Grant from \$4,050 to \$5,100. (Aug 2007)
- Sponsored legislations that recruit and reward good teachers. (Sep 2004)
- Voted YES on \$52M for "21st century community learning centers". (Oct 2005)
- Voted YES on \$5B for grants to local educational agencies. (Oct 2005)
- Voted YES on shifting \$11B from corporate tax loopholes to education. (Mar 2005)

Ron Paul on Education Republican Representative (TX-14)

- Don't impeach judges for decisions on legislature prayers. (Sep 2007)

- Present scientific facts that support creationism. (Sep 2007)
- Equal funds for abstinence as contraceptive-based education. (Sep 2007)
- Tax-credited programs for Christian schooling. (Sep 2007)
- Guarantee parity for home school diplomas. (Sep 2007)
- Voted NO on allowing Courts to decide on "God" in Pledge of Allegiance. (Jul 2006)
- Voted NO on \$84 million in grants for Black and Hispanic colleges. (Mar 2006)
- Voted NO on allowing school prayer during the War on Terror. (Nov 2001)
- Voted NO on requiring states to test students. (May 2001)
- Voted NO on allowing vouchers in DC schools. (Aug 1998)
- Voted YES on vouchers for private & parochial schools. (Nov 1997)
- Abolish the federal Department of Education. (Dec 2000)
- Rated 67% by the NEA, indicating a mixed record on public education. (Dec 2003)
- Supports a Constitutional Amendment for school prayer. (May 1997)

Bill Richardson on Education Democratic Governor (NM)

- Start earlier with preschool for every child under 4. (Sep 2007)
- Pay off college loans in exchange for national service. (Sep 2007)
- Minimum wage for our teachers: \$40,000 per year. (Aug 2007)
- One-point plan on No Child Left Behind: Scrap it. (Aug 2007)
- Scrap No Child Left Behind; it doesn't work. (Jul 2007)

- Help failing schools; don't penalize by defunding them. (Jul 2007)
- Minimum wage of \$40,000 for teachers. (Jul 2007)
- Supreme Court backstabbed equality of Brown v. Board of Ed. (Jul 2007)
- Nobody asks how we pay for war; why do we ask on education? (Jun 2007)
- Eliminate junk food in schools; statewide smoking ban. (Mar 2007)
- Equip every 7th grader with a laptop computer. (Jan 2004)
- Increase the salary of school teachers. (Jan 2004)
- A plan that can reach straightforward education goals. (Jan 2004)
- Charter schools show tremendous promise. (Jan 2004)
- Expand the lottery scholarship program for college students. (Jan 2004)
- No vouchers: they abandon public schools. (Oct 2002)
- Provide parents with vouchers, even for religious schools. (Nov 1996)
- Voted NO on giving federal aid only to schools allowing voluntary prayer. (Mar 1994)

Mitt Romney on Education **Former Republican Governor** **(MA)**

- Supports English immersion & abstinence education. (May 2007)
- Changed from closing Education Dept. to supporting NCLB. (May 2007)
- Reform underperforming schools or replace with charters. (Sep 2002)
- Supported abolishing the federal Department of Education. (Mar 2002)
- Schools can teach family values, but not religion or prayer. (Aug 1994)

- Supported means-tested vouchers for public & private schools. (Mar 2002)

Fred Thompson on Education **Former Republican Senator (TN)**

- Voted for No Child Left Behind, but critics were right. (Oct 2007)
- Allow states to experiment with vouchers & charter schools. (Oct 2007)
- Promote voucher programs & charter schools. (Sep 2007)
- Encourage rights of parents to choose school. (Sep 2007)
- Best reforms are not federal but local, like charters. (Sep 2007)
- Voted NO on funding smaller classes instead of private tutors. (May 2001)
- Voted NO on funding student testing instead of private tutors. (May 2001)
- Voted NO on spending \$448B of tax cut on education & debt reduction. (Apr 2001)
- Voted YES on Educational Savings Accounts. (Mar 2000)
- Voted YES on allowing more flexibility in federal school rules. (Mar 1999)
- Voted YES on education savings accounts. (Jun 1998)
- Voted YES on school vouchers in DC. (Sep 1997)
- Voted YES on \$75M for abstinence education. (Jul 1996)



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