

Questions for Candidates – School Finance

#TXVotes4Kids

1. Money in education matters. Well-funded public schools are better able to attract and retain high-quality teachers, offer smaller class sizes, and enhance art, science and other programs. **What steps would you take to ensure that public schools have sufficient funding to provide a high-quality education to all Texas children?**
2. In 2011, lawmakers cut over \$5 billion from the two-year public education budget, about \$500 per student each year. Some of that funding has come back, but these efforts have fallen below what is needed to keep up with inflation or the additional 80,000 students joining our public schools each year. This means that we're investing less per student than we were before the recession. **If elected, how will you address the underfunding of Texas public education?**
3. Property wealth varies quite a bit in Texas school districts, so the state has to help provide equitable school funding. Lower-income districts tend to have more students of color, meaning that school funding problems in Texas disproportionately affect Black and Latino students. **What would you do to make sure school funding is equitable across districts and schools?**
4. Texas is a fast-growing state, adding about 80,000 students each year to our public education system. State funding has not kept up with inflation or student growth. **How would you work to ensure school funding keeps pace with student growth and inflation?**
5. The state only provides school districts with enough funding to run a half-day Pre-K program, even though a full-day program is shown to produce better results. Over half of Texas Pre-K students are in a full-day program anyway because districts spend their own money to cover a full day of Pre-K, since they understand it's worth the extra investment. **If elected, what would you do to ensure Texas invests in full-day pre-k for all students?**
6. The U.S. Department of Education has found that the Texas Education Agency pushed to deny services to Texas kids with special needs. **If elected, what actions would you take to ensure all children with disabilities received the appropriate level of services?**
7. School vouchers divert money from public schools to pay for private schools without requiring the same level of accountability that we expect from our public schools. Vouchers also don't help students in rural areas, which have few if any private schools. **What is your stance on school vouchers? If elected, what would you do to keep public funding in our public schools?**
8. Children in poverty, children experiencing behavioral challenges, and English language learners need additional support to succeed in school. **What would you do to ensure that children from all backgrounds have the chance to succeed in school?**