

General Questions for All Candidates

- What is the most important education issue facing us today?
- If you could change one thing about the way we educate children, what would it be?
- How will you ensure that public schools operate effectively, and that all children achieve academic success?
- What are your plans for increasing family engagement in education?
- What are your top priorities for improving public education?
- What are the current challenges facing education?
- How should teacher quality and school and student performance be evaluated?
- What can be done to improve student achievement and ensure everyone who graduates is college-ready?
- The Common Core State Standards for reading and mathematics have become increasingly controversial since 46 states adopted them in 2010. Have your views on the Common Core changed since it was introduced? Why or why not?

Questions for Candidates for Federal and State Office

- How can the government effectively partner with parents and families to support student and school success—especially in underserved communities?
- What is your opinion of current spending on public education, including funding for special needs and limited English proficient students?
- Do you have any tax proposals to offer for public school funding?
- What is your position on government supports for early childhood education?
- What is your opinion on the adequacy of federal (state) funding for early childhood through grade 12 education?
- (Federal only) International comparisons of student achievements indicate that U.S. high school students have average or below average adult literacy skills. How would you work to ensure that the public education system produces a skilled workforce that supports the leadership of the United States in the global marketplace?

Questions for School Board Candidates

- What do you see as the educational gaps or weaknesses in our district?
- What do you see as the educational strengths in our district?
- Do you see yourself primarily as a representative of the community or as a representative of the school system?
- Due to time and meeting constraints, all school boards are limited in what they can do. How should the board decide what's most important?
- How will you engage the community to improve public schools in the district?
- What in your background leads you to believe that you would be an effective school board member?
- How should our district address underperforming schools?

Education Questions for Political Candidates

National PTA



- Is there a particular issue that motivates you to serve on the board of education?
- What is a school board member's role and responsibility? How does that role differ from the role of the superintendent or administration?
- How can a board of education best communicate with its constituent groups?
- How would you determine your budget priorities?
- What is your vision for education in this community?