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| Where Do the 2016 Presidential Candidates Stand on K‒12 Issues?  *\*Candidates have suspended their campaigns as of 2/2/2016* | | | | |
| *Republican Candidates* | | | | |
|  | **Common Core (CC) Standards** | **School Choice** | **Teachers** | **Department of Education (ED)** |
| Jeb Bush | Supports strong standards, CC brand is “poisonous” | Supports | Recruit more, reward teachers for performance, personal training accounts for professional development | Reduce ED’s size by half, eliminate waste |
| Ben Carson | Opposes, pro-local standards | Supports | Reward teachers for performance, empower them, develop effective accountability systems | Role should change; monitor political bias in higher-ed institutions |
| Chris Christie | Supported CC in 2013, now opposes them | Supports | Pro-tenure reform, anti-teacher unions, reward teachers for teacher and student performance | (No info.) |
| Ted Cruz | Opposes, wants CC repealed | Supports | (No info.) | Abolish ED |
| Carly Fiorina | Opposes, CC is federal overreach | Supports | Advocates for metric-based accountability and teaching competitive skills/good character, educators need resources/training to effectively do their jobs | Would consider abolishing ED |
| Jim Gilmore | Opposes, pro-local standards | Supports vouchers, not homeschooling | Recruit more, raise pay via local funds, empower teachers | (No info.) |
| Mike Huckabee | Supported CC in 2013, now opposes them | Supports | Reward teachers for performance, supports art/music education, pro-tenure reform | Abolish ED |
| John Kasich | Supports, won’t call CC by name | Supports | Anti-teacher unions/ collective bargaining, wants more teacher accountability | Overhaul ED to only operate four major block grant programs |
| Rand Paul | Opposes, wants CC abolished, pro-local standards | Supports | Teacher-student ratios should be increased, incorporate ed-tech for more MMO classes, believes teachers are paid enough on average (salary + benefits), empower teachers | Abolish ED |
| Marco Rubio | Opposes, CC is federal overreach, pro-local standards | Supports | Need more foreign language teachers, reward teachers for performance, supported NCLB provisions tying teacher evaluations to student performance | Don’t really need ED, transfer some functions to other agencies (student loans); move from ED to local regulation |
| Donald Trump | Opposes | Supports | Teachers focus too much on “empowering” students over being judgmental; they teach “dumbed-down” curricula and should teach citizenship; anti-teacher unions | Would consider abolishing ED or slim it “way, way down” |
| Rick Santorum\* | Opposes CC and other national standards | Supports | Anti-teacher unions/ collective bargaining, school boards in union’s pockets, unions block removing incompetent teachers, reward teachers for performance | (No info.) |
| *Democratic Candidates* | | | | |
|  | **Common Core (CC)** | **School Choice** | **Teachers** | **Department of Education (ED)** |
| Hillary Clinton | Supports | Opposes vouchers, supports charter schools | Endorsed by teacher unions, pro-unions/ collective bargaining, wants more teacher training/support, against tying student performance to teacher evaluations | Keep it as it is |
| Bernie Sanders | Neutral, CC is state issue not federal, pro-local standards. | Opposes, charters OK only if held accountable like public schools | Pro-unions/collective bargaining, wants more teacher training/support, against tying student performance to teacher evaluations | Keep it as it is |
| Martin O’Malley\* | Supports | Supports public school choice | Wants more teacher training/support, against tying student performance to teacher evaluations, pro-unions | Keep it as it is |