

Suggested Questions on Nevada Education Issues For Candidates for the U. S. Congress, Nevada Legislature and Governor, and Local School Boards

2010

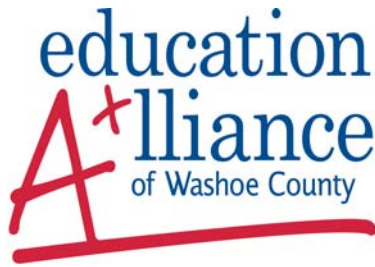
*Prepared by the P-16 Advocacy Council
of The Education Alliance of Washoe County*

National Issues

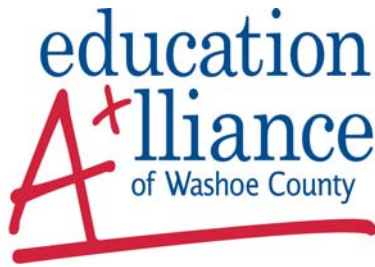
1. What can and will you do to support Nevada's Race to the Top Application?
2. What are your priorities for reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) sometimes known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB)?
3. What is your view of formula funding versus competitive funding for federal education funding for the states?

State Issues

1. Please describe in some detail your recent experience with Nevada's public schools, i.e. recent visits, children or grandchildren of your own, interactions, or volunteer activities.
2. Please share your perceptions of how Nevada schools are doing.
3. Do you agree with the President and National Governors Association that all high school students should graduate "Career and College Ready?" Why or why not?
What does Career and College Ready mean to you?
What will you do to implement that goal in Nevada?
4. Should high school students be educated differently for an occupational/career track as opposed to a college-bound track?



5. What do you see as the purpose and value that higher education institutions bring to the State of Nevada?
6. What do you know about the college-going rate in Nevada and in Washoe County?
7. Please describe your plan to address Nevada's low percentage of residents that have completed higher education. What challenges does this pose for diversifying Nevada's economy?
8. Do you believe that K-12 and higher education are currently being funded adequately in Nevada?
9. What specific cuts and/or revenue increases would you support to offset the projected shortfall in revenue for the next biennium?
10. How much should the state of Nevada invest in education, and how do you view the return on that investment?
11. The average K-12 per pupil expenditure in Nevada is estimated to be \$2500 - \$2800 per student less than the national average per pupil expenditure. Are you concerned about that gap? Why or why not?
12. What proportion of the cost of higher education should the student assume?
13. Do you believe that the current funding formula for higher education in Nevada is appropriate? Why or why not?
14. What are your views on continuation and state funding of the Millennium Scholarship program? Has the program had an impact on the economy of Nevada and, if so, how? The Millennium Scholarship is a merit-based scholarship program. Do you see value in a state-funded need-based scholarship program and, if so, in addition to or in lieu of a merit-based program?
15. What state mandates exist for K-12 and higher education in Nevada that you believe are unnecessary and should be abolished?
16. The demographics of the school-age population in the state of Nevada are changing with increasing proportions of non-English speaking, poor, special education, and ethnically diverse students. What effect, if any, do you think this should have on education funding by the state legislature? What experience do you have that will help you respond to these changes?



17. What is your long-term plan for investment in P-16 education?
18. Currently Nevada has an elected State Board of Education and an elected Board of Regents. Do you favor having these positions elected or appointed? If appointed, who should make the appointments and using what criteria?
19. Some observers see a need to shift roles and authority for education in regard to the Legislature, the State Department of Education, the Board of Regents, and local school boards. Do you support any such changes and, if so, please describe the changes you would like to see?
20. What is your view of the state government's responsibility for public schools?

Local Issues

1. If elected as a Washoe County school trustee, what would be your two highest priorities, and what would you hope to accomplish regarding these priorities?
2. Faced with potentially massive cuts in the K-12 budget for the 2011-2013 bienniums, what are your "sacred cows" that you would fight to preserve? Where would you cut?
3. What do you see as the top two or three most important issues or problems facing the Washoe County School District at the present time?
4. The demographics of the Washoe County School District are changing. What impact, if any, do you think this should have on the school district's budgeting and on the allocation of district resources? What experience do you have that will help you respond to these demographic changes?
5. How can the K-12 and higher education systems bridge the needs for improved academic achievement and for increased career and technical (vocational or occupational) education?
6. How can K-12 and higher education systems improve workforce development?
7. What do you see as the primary purposes of K-12 and higher education?
8. What are your views on Early Childhood Education?