



2008 STATE EXECUTIVE SCORECARD

The Center for Education Reform's election year analyses are typically limited to taking the temperature - and comparing the positions - of the candidates for state and federal offices. This year, however, we're faced with a bigger challenge. As the nation reels from an economic meltdown, education has not only been sidelined - it's been tackled.

From state to state, leaders are warning of dire cuts. While we've never believed - and research confirms - that money is the answer, lawmakers naturally seek to roll back programs in the face of hard times. Sadly, the first to go often are those that have the most impact - charter schools.

In fact, as this *Scorecard* went to press, the city of Philadelphia halted the final approval of seven new charter schools approved to open for the 2009 school year. Georgia legislators are looking at curbing approval of new charter districts.

That means that a candidate's passion for education reform is even more important at a time like this. Governors, state chiefs and even Members of Congress must be committed enough to substantial reform to make sure that the coming tough decisions do not set us back another 20 years in educational attainment. The illiteracy this country has tolerated for all too long cannot continue. And, if we are ever going to solve the nation's economic crisis, we must have really smart people to help see us through it all. Our kids need to be lifted up to the expectations that come with hard work and rigorous courses. Not only must they be highly proficient readers and analysts, they must understand history, civic culture, the sciences that can make or break our environment, and the tolerance that comes from understanding and respecting cultural differences.

Such "smarts" will come only to most through a great education. Great schools have autonomy and freedom, successful teachers, rigorous curricula and measurable standards. They are held accountable for results. And parents are able to drive that accountability with their choices.

Our analysis of where all the major candidates stand on education is only a fraction of what we've learned from this exercise. If a candidate is "status quo" or willing to accept that new bricks and new money are the answers, that candidate is unlikely to govern or vote in a way that ensures that our children have only good schools from which to choose. Just as the presidential candidates say, it's time for bold leadership, not only in Washington but also in every state and major city where education not only drives our collective, national success, but assures a better future for all people.

Long after this voter's guide is relevant, we will be monitoring and analyzing the moves of state and national leaders with a renewed, expanded and critical eye. We all must do so.

Jeanne Allen
President

2008 STATE EXECUTIVE CANDIDATE SCORECARD

Candidates by State	Party	Strong Charter Law	Plentiful Parent Choice	Performance Pay for Teachers	Testing with Teeth
Delaware					
Candidates for Governor					
Jack Markell	Democrat	Opposed	Opposed	Not clear	Opposed
Bill Lee	Republican	Supports	Supports	Not clear	Not clear
Indiana					
Candidates for Governor					
<i>Mitch Daniels</i>	Republican	Supports	Supports	Supports	Supports
Jill Long Thompson	Democrat	Opposed	Opposed	Not clear	Moderate
Candidates for State Education Chief					
Tony Bennett	Republican	Supports	Supports	Not clear	Supports
Richard Wood	Democrat	Moderate	Opposed	Not clear	Supports
Missouri					
Candidates for Governor					
Kenny Hulshof	Republican	Supports	Supports	Supports	Supports
Jay Nixon	Democrat	Moderate	Opposed	Opposed	Not Clear
Montana					
Candidates for Governor					
<i>Brian Schweitzer</i>	Democrat	Not clear	Not clear	Not clear	Moderate
Roy Brown	Republican	Supports	Not clear	Not clear	Moderate
Candidates for State Education Chief					
Denise Juneau	Democrat	Opposed	Opposed	Not clear	Moderate
Elaine Sollie Herman	Republican	Supports	Supports	Supports	Supports
New Hampshire					
Candidates for Governor					
<i>John Lynch</i>	Democrat	Opposed	Opposed	Not clear	Not clear
Joseph D. Kenney	Republican	Supports	Supports	Not clear	Not clear
North Carolina					
Candidates for Governor					
Bev Perdue	Democrat	Opposed	Opposed	Not clear	Moderate
Pat McCrory	Republican	Supports	Supports	Opposed	Supports
Candidates for State Education Chief					
<i>June Atkinson</i>	Democrat	Opposed	Opposed	Moderate	Moderate
Richard Morgan	Republican	Supports	Supports	Opposed	Opposed
North Dakota					
Candidates for Governor					
<i>John Hoeven</i>	Republican	Not clear	Not clear	Supports	Moderate
Tim Mathern	Democrat	Not clear	Not clear	Opposed	Not clear
Candidates for State Education Chief					
<i>Wayne Sanstead</i>	N/A	Opposed	Opposed	Not clear	Moderate
Max Laird	N/A	Opposed	Opposed	Opposed	Opposed

Utah						
Candidates for Governor						
	<i>Jon Huntsman</i>	Republican	Supports	Supports	Supports	Supports
	Bob Springmeyer	Democrat	Not clear	Opposed	Opposed	Opposed
Vermont						
Candidates for Governor						
	<i>Jim Douglas</i>	Republican	Not clear	Moderate	Not Clear	Moderate
	Gaye Symington	Democrat	Not clear	Not clear	Opposed	Opposed
Washington						
Candidates for Governor						
	<i>Christine Gregoire</i>	Democrat	Opposed	Opposed	Not clear	Moderate
	Dino Rossi	Republican	Supports	Supports	Supports	Supports
Candidates for State Education Chief						
	<i>Terry Bergeson</i>	n/a	Moderate	Opposed	Not clear	Supports
	Randy Dom	n/a	Opposed	Opposed	Moderate	Opposed
West Virginia						
Candidates for Governor						
	<i>Joe Manchin</i>	Democrat	Not clear	Not clear	Not clear	Not clear
	Russ Weeks	Republican	Not clear	Not clear	Not clear	Not clear

Scorecard Key
<i>Italics</i> indicate incumbent.
Supports it fully.
Opposed.
Moderate to weak support.
Not clear, but unlikely to support based on analysis of candidate's views.