

Carly for California

Carly on Education

“The most important thing...is to have a world-class 21st century education system...We need to start by insisting on really strong accountability measures in public schools.”

(Carly Fiorina, 11/4/09)

California was built on a spirit of innovation and on the belief that if you work hard and show determination, you can succeed. One of the most important ways government can support that kind of success is through education. Carly believes that it is our responsibility as leaders to ensure that California’s students have the tools they need to thrive in school and beyond.

Carly believes we should create a culture of accountability in our schools supported by high standards, well-aligned metrics and outcome-based rewards and consequences.

- The principles of competition, choice and transparency play an important role in ensuring that our students have access to the world-class education they deserve.
 - These goals are supported by policies that provide for open enrollment, charter schools and career technical education.
 - Parents play incredibly important roles in a child’s education, and any successful education reform plan must embrace and encourage robust parental involvement.
- Carly has seen the effectiveness of alternative and performance-based compensation based on robust metrics of success in the business world; these same tools can help bring greater accountability to our nation’s education system.

President Obama’s Race to the Top program puts into place some critically important accountability measures that Carly believes will help improve our education system.

- Internationally benchmarked standards and assessments help ensure our students graduate high school prepared with the skills necessary to succeed in our 21st century economy.
- Recruiting and retaining highly effective teachers and principals helps ensure that our students are learning from the best.
- Robust data systems help parents and teachers more accurately and effectively track how a student is learning so they can continually improve their teaching practices to ensure greater student success.
- Turning around our lowest-performing schools helps ensure that every student has the opportunity to learn the skills necessary to reach their full potential.

As Congress works on Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization, Carly thinks that the debate should focus on improving student outcomes.

- No Child Left Behind helped us set high standards for our students, and many of our students have met and exceeded that bar.
 - However, thousands of students in California and across the nation still fall through the cracks and drop out of school.
 - California also has a persistent achievement gap between ethnic groups. Schools are disproportionately failing to properly educate children from Hispanic and African American families.
- As a U.S. senator, Carly will champion policies that help ensure every child – especially those in persistently underperforming schools – is given the opportunity to learn the academic skills necessary to meet our high standards and succeed after graduation.

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