



Illinois Gubernatorial Primary 2018: Candidate Questionnaire

Raise Your Hand Action advocates for education policies that protect and support high-quality, well-resourced public education for all children in Chicago and throughout the state. We hope to provide our network of engaged parents and other public school supporters with detailed information about the policy stances on public education of each candidate for governor so that they can make an informed choice in the voting booth in March.

If you are participating in the questionnaire, please return your responses to these 14 questions to us by Thursday January 25th, 5pm: act@raiseyourhandaction.org

1. What do you see as the purpose of public education?
2. List three priorities you'd have as Governor in terms of improving public education in the state of Illinois.
3. Explain your plans to deal with funding inequity in Illinois?
4. Should all students have to take standardized tests annually? What is your philosophy about how students should be evaluated academically?
5. What other ways would you suggest teachers be evaluated? What do you see as the problem of evaluating teachers by standardized tests?
6. Should Illinois continue using the PARCC test? Why or why not?
7. The difference in test scores between students of color and white students was the smallest when US public schools were the most integrated. Schools are now more segregated than they were at the time of *Brown v. Board of Education*. The Chicago metro area is one of the country's most segregated in both housing and schools. What is the state government's responsibility to repair a century of government-sponsored residential and school segregation in our state? How will you promote integration in housing and schools in Illinois?
8. Would you support legislation mandating an elected representative school board for Chicago? If so, when should an elected representative board be put into place?
9. Do you support legislation to weaken the IL state charter commission? Why or why not?
10. What role do public charter schools play in the education landscape in Illinois?

11. A voucher program was recently passed into law here. What are your thoughts about this program?
12. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) says that each child who has a disability and needs special education and related services will receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). How will you ensure that special education students are receiving FAPE?
13. Illinois is one of 37 states without class size laws. Would you sign a law putting a cap on class size in Illinois?
14. Educational software collects large amounts of sensitive data about students. Should students in public schools be required to use programs that collect personally-identifiable data? What rights do public school families have if they do not wish to hand over sensitive student data in order to participate in school curriculum and programs?