



The Facts on Public Education

1. **OPPOSES PRIVATIZATION:** Former House Democratic Leader Stacey Abrams has been a strong champion for our public schools and has consistently stood against handing over our public schools to private interests and the unchecked expansion of **charter schools**.
 - a. Abrams is the only Democratic candidate for governor to vote against HR 1162 (2011), which created the State Charter School Commission, allowing the state to circumvent local school systems to authorize the creation of charter schools in any school district.
 - b. As both legislator and as the House Democratic Leader, Abrams opposed the funding for the *Student Scholarship Organizations*, which diverts public dollars to fund vouchers to attend private schools with nominal accountability, including the ability to discriminate against LGBTQ students.
 - c. Abrams is the only Democratic candidate for governor to oppose the Parent Trigger bill, HB 123 (2013), which would have allowed the forcible conversion of public schools into charter schools that could be managed by out-of-state companies without community input. Georgia does not regulate private charter school management companies and limits parental intervention in how such schools are run.

2. **NO STATE TAKEOVER:** Leader Abrams is the only Democratic candidate for governor who opposed the Opportunity School District (OSD) in 2015 and 2016 because she understands the importance of supporting our most vulnerable children and local control of our public schools.
 - a. OSD, SR 287, (2015) would have given the state almost unlimited power to seize control of Georgia's underfunded, impoverished public schools and hand them over to private interests -- taking away authority from local parents and teachers.
 - b. Abrams opposed anti-public school legislation that would have disproportionately affected children of color and low-income students: of the identified 127 Georgia schools eligible for OSD, 95% of attendees were students of color and 90% were low-income students.
 - c. Abrams is the only Democratic candidate who worked to protect educators and staff from blanket termination. The OSD administrator could have fired every member of the staff in a school and still required



local taxpayers to foot the bill for an empty building. OSD also would have allowed a private company to take over the school and turn a profit, even if kids continued to struggle.

3. **DEFENDS EDUCATORS AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES:** Leader Abrams is Georgia's strongest advocate for public school employees because she knows they are critical to fostering student success, and she has consistently received high marks from the state's largest labor-affiliated teachers organization.
 - a. Abrams worked to block SB 469 (2012) from consideration in the House, which would have ended dues deduction for education associations and other labor groups, crippling their organizations and silencing their voices.
 - b. Abrams opposed HB 361 (2013), which unlawfully regulated voluntary payroll authorizations in violation of labor laws. This bill was ruled unconstitutional in 2016.
 - c. Abrams fought against HB 714 (2014), a bill that would have banned 60,000 school workers, cafeteria workers, bus drivers and others who work at public schools from claiming unemployment benefits during summer and holiday breaks.
 - d. Abrams helped defeat a plan to strip healthcare benefits from school employees like bus drivers and cafeteria workers through the 2016 state budget.
4. **A PROVEN LEADER ON EDUCATION:** As Governor, Stacey Abrams will make educating bold and ambitious children from cradle to career a priority. Leader Abrams believes we must invest in excellent public schools by providing early and regular assessment of student's capacity to learn: supporting their physical, emotional and mental health rather than simply gauging their ability to take tests and acknowledging challenges like poverty and hunger that impact students both in and outside the classroom.
 - a. Abrams introduced the Bold Action for a Brighter Future plan to address child care access and affordability. The Bold Start Scholarship will help any family spending more of their income on child care than our affordability standard (to be set at a maximum of between 7-10% of family income). Families will qualify for a scholarship to be used in programs providing quality, educational child care. They can use these scholarships in the settings that best meet their needs, whether for



home-based care, child care centers, or, if their child is a ready three-year-old, for pre-school.

- b. Abrams' child care plan also addresses afterschool care, which can provide an enormous opportunity for providing education that fosters creativity, skill building, and critical thinking. As an initial bold step towards implementing afterschool care options, Georgia must invest in funding robotics programs for children across the state via their school districts or local afterschool programs to help build skills in engineering, coding.
- c. As Governor, Abrams will work to grow access to apprenticeships, support free technical college in Georgia, increase support for associate's degrees, and establish need-based aid for higher education while expanding HOPE for all college students.
- d. Abrams is the only Democratic candidate for governor who voted to save Pre-K programs from severe cuts during the 2011 HOPE compromise. In addition to preventing drastic cuts and preserving the program for future generations, she and prevented the imposition of blanket GPA requirements that would have disproportionately harmed low-income students and students of color. Those students, who received the HOPE Scholarship, received funding at 80-90% of the Zell Miller Scholarship. In addition, Abrams helped secure funding for a 1% low interest loan program funded at more than \$20M.