

PAGE COUNTY DEMOCRATS WORKING FOR....

...PUBLIC EDUCATION

Page County Democrats are working for better public education in our County and across America by supporting Joe Biden for President.

Recognizing that, "Educators deserve a partner in the White House," Joe Biden is committed to providing our educational system sufficient federal funding to better educate our children, empower teachers, and support preschool, vocational training and payment to cover college debt. His plan will help Page County and the country in many ways:

- Tripling federal funding for Title-1 to aid K-12 schools and school districts in impoverished areas.
- Investing in universal Pre-K for all 3 and 4 year olds by increasing funding for programs like Head Start, offering a tax credit for child care and working with states to provide early education opportunities in our public schools. This kind of federal support also helps working parents get and keep the jobs needed to support their families.
- Invigorating the school curriculum with vocational training partnerships among high schools, community colleges and employers, and bringing back more "practical classes" like "shop classes" and other high school training that can lead to credentials.
- Facilitating "seamless pathways between high school, job training, community college, and four-year programs." An interconnected education system could forge partnerships to identify the knowledge and skills in local demand and develop relevant workforce training programs. Joe Biden's approach thus fortifies the sort of partnerships that Page County's Technical Center and high schools endorse.
- Opposing federal funding of for-profit public charter schools and increasing overall accountability for public charter schools.
- Opposing diversion of funds for public education to private education and school vouchers. As Biden recognizes, "when we divert public funds to private schools, we undermine the entire public education system. We've got to prioritize investing in our public schools, so every kid in America gets a fair shot."
- Supporting education with social services, including after-school care, counselling and health services. This will help teachers, students and staff by investing "to double the number of psychologists, guidance counselors, nurses, social workers, and other health professionals employed in our schools." This

will invigorate and assist families with the myriad of challenges they may face from mental health challenges, food instability, childcare needs and health care.

- Proposing a grant program for states to accelerate collaborations like dual enrollment, designed to better align high school, community college and four-year college courses, and enable low income students to graduate high school with an Associates Degree.
- Supporting higher education plans to offer students two years at community college tuition-free, new investments in workforce training and programs to ensure older workers develop the skills needed in a changing workplace. Jill Biden, a Virginia Community College Professor, supports childcare assistance and textbook relief to help community college students. The Biden plan also doubles the maximum Pell Grant award and automatically provide increases to the maximum award based on inflation.
- Easing student debt by relaxing repayment requirements for low-income individuals and improve existing loan forgiveness programs. Those earning less than \$25,000 per year would be able to delay payments with no additional interest added to their loan. Those earning more than \$25,000 would be automatically enrolled in an income-based repayment program, with opportunity to opt out if they wish. Biden also proposes revamping the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.
- Closing the wage gap for teachers who salaries are well below workers with equivalent training and education.
- Expanding broadband access to promote more equitable distance learning. This is especially important in Page County and across rural America.

The Trump Administration and Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos have cut funding to public schools, advocated privatizing public education, rolled back protections for vulnerable children and continually ignored the advice of educators about student needs. DeVos has also diverting federal grant money intended for academics and student enrichment to purchase firearms for teachers to keep in their classrooms, and attempted to strip teachers of their right to collective bargaining.

Our educators and students deserve a president who is committed to a public education system that works for all, regardless of race, religion, socioeconomic status, disability or zip-code. Joe Biden will work to restore faith in our public education system and bring about the changes needed to “meet this moment by making vital investments that will enable our children and future generations to thrive and achieve their full human potential.”

Joe Biden is endorsed by the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association and Everytown for Gun Safety.

Before you vote, see where your candidate stands on issues impacting public education.
<https://educationvotes.nea.org/presidential-2020/biden-vs-trump/>