



Fund Public Schools Voting Guide

Everything you need to know to make informed decisions
when voting for your child's future and education.

The State of Public Education

The decisions elected officials make about school funding, educators, curriculum, and even whether public schools exist affect whether every student has the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed. These decisions deeply impact our communities.

This November, vote with the community in mind by having public education at the top of mind. **Learn what is on the ballot in your community, find out where candidates stand on public education, and make your plan to vote.**

What is at stake?

Whether public schools have the resources, materials, and staff that students need. Whether public dollars fund public schools, or get diverted to private schools.

Whether our children will have access to books and curriculum that represent our communities, or whether book bans will continue to deprive them of the lessons they need.

This guide is issue-focused and nonpartisan. It does not endorse candidates. But it does endorse strong public schools for strong communities.

What's on the Ballot for students in your community?

According to EdWeek's Guide to the 2026 Elections: Where Education Is on the Ballot, the most prominent education issues in the 2026

elections are school choice "vouchers", school funding and taxes, and parental rights.

Vouchers on all counts harm public education and students. Vouchers steal scarce funding from public schools—which serve 90 percent of students—and give it to private schools that are unaccountable to taxpayers.

Public Funds in Public Schools: H.R. 1, the budget reconciliation bill passed in 2025, created the first national tax-credit voucher program to weaken public education and divert billions of dollars to private and religious schools. The Keep Public Funds in Public Schools Act would repeal the national tax-credit voucher program set to launch on January 1, 2027

School funding issues focus on how states will sustain public education amid declining enrollment, the end of federal COVID relief funding, and proposals to reduce property and income taxes that help fund schools.

Parental rights remain a significant political issue, with proposals materials, student records, and decisions about health services and instruction, particularly around controversial topics. These proposals allow a small group of parents to determine what all students read and learn in school.

Key races, offices, and decision makers that are on the ballot

36 gubernatorial races

to determine who will set education policy priorities and negotiate and sign budgets that fund public schools. **8 races for superintendent** charged with running state departments of education.

9 states

and the District of Columbia elect state board of education members, with **44 seats in total up for grabs.**

17 states'

voters will decide on **34 ballot initiatives** that either directly affect education or its primary funding sources.

What
races matter
and why you
should make
sure your
voice and
vote are
heard.

School Board Members

Varies by state and district but often oversee local school policies, budgets, and superintendents.

State Legislators

Shape school funding, teacher policies, vouchers, and curriculum.

Governor

Influences state education budgets, legislation, and appointments.

Members of Congress

Influence federal funding plus higher education policy.

Mayors and County officials

May influence school funding, facilities, transportation, and early learning.



Questions to think about when measuring where your candidates stand on the issues:

Will they protect every student's right to a safe, welcoming, and nondiscriminatory learning environment?

Will they support curriculum that teaches an accurate and comprehensive account of history?

Do they support or oppose using public funds for private-school vouchers?

What accountability, transparency, and nondiscrimination requirements should apply to any school receiving public funds?

What steps would they take to close funding gaps between school districts?

How will they make sure public education dollars reach classrooms and student services?

Steps to prepare

STEP 1

Check your registration.
Confirm your registration status

STEP 2

Review what's on your ballot, including school board contests and local education measures.
[COC.is/vote](https://coc.is/vote)

STEP 3

Do your research and learn about the candidates and the offices up for election. Ask questions to candidates, campaigns, organizations, or on-line at trusted sites like [NEA.org](https://nea.org). Use this guide to help.

STEP 4

Make your voting plan. Find your polling location. Confirm where and when you can vote. Decide if you'll vote early, by mail, or on Election Day.

STEP 5

Go vote and take people with you!

Final Election Information

Election Day: Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

Early and absentee voting: Confirm dates, eligibility, and deadlines in your area.

Polling location: Use your official election office's lookup.

ID requirements: Review your state's rules before you vote. [COC.is/vote](https://coc.is/vote)