

Local control of public education is vital to education improvement. Our local schools should be governed by the communities in which they reside. Parents, teachers and citizens should be allowed to directly control what is taught and how it is taught through their representatives on their local school boards.

The State of Oklahoma is Constitutionally bound to provide free and public education to all children. The Constitution referred to here is the Oklahoma State Constitution and not our Federal Constitution. Our Federal Constitution makes no mention of local public education and therefore has no role in it. It is UNCONSTITUTIONAL for any involvement of our Federal government in state education.

Private corporations should not be allowed to dictate to local schools through partnering with governmental entities what should be taught or how it should be taught and tested. Large amounts of private dollars have been invested into “new” systems of education by private firms which stand to reap huge profits through tax dollars.

The teacher needs to be the authority in the classroom. Teachers need to be free to teach and not be forced to comply with regulations that limit the use of their training and expertise. Here are my ideas that would help restore public education back to its rightful place.

- Abolish the US Department of Education.
- Require school board members to have budget training about their districts.
- State School Board members should be ELECTED by the people.
- State budgeting process should be open and transparent for all to see.
- Combine administrative processes across all districts where it makes sense to do so.
- Allow ad-valorem tax to be used to fund operations during a funding short fall.
- Stabilize funding of education. NO SALES TAX INCREASE.
- Classroom teachers in K-12 should be exempted from state income tax.
- Forgive student loans for beginning teachers who teach in Oklahoma 10 years.
- Remove state salary steps and minimum pay requirements of teachers.
- Local school board elections should be in the same election cycle as other offices.
- Notice should be given to the community by schools submitting bond proposals.
- Implementing shared service agreements with all state agencies in order to reduce the size and scope of state government.
- Increase the states budget cycle to two years, dealing with policy in the odd years.
- Ban the funding of lobbyist with public funds.

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