

Candidates Respond to CAPE Public Education Principles Questionnaire

CAPE Ohio asked Central Ohio, State of Ohio, and Ohio Congressional District candidates who are running for office in the general election in November, 2018 to complete a questionnaire on public education. On the questionnaire candidates were asked which of the 13 Principles of the CAPE Ohio Vision for Public Education (see below) are consistent with their views and provided space for comments.

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CAPE Ohio Principles for Public Education Provide Vision for Public Education

1. **Free, universal, high-quality public education** is a fundamental right of all children and adolescents in the United States – from early childhood through college.
2. **Public education must remain an institution for the public good** that ensures the betterment of all citizens. It is not a collection of investment opportunities and competitive markets. Teaching is a human profession, not a factory turning out workers and consumers.
3. **Public education must have visionary leadership.** Leaders – students, teachers, parents, administrators, and public officials – must proceed from a vision and purpose that are well understood and embraced by all participants in the system to which they are responsible.
4. **Equity and sufficiency in state and federal funding for public education must be addressed in order to meet the imperative to provide high-quality education for all.** The source of funding for insuring free, universal, and accessible high-quality education must be equitable and sufficient and, therefore, cannot rely on local/state property taxes.
5. **Responsible school and program choices must be offered within public education.** Parents and students must have free and open access to options and alternatives that do not, however, disadvantage other students or programs within the system.
6. **Twenty-First Century learning environments must be designed to grow potential in every student.** Everyone with whom students interact in a public

- school setting must help students develop their identities as positive and productive assets, constantly open to new learning. Intelligence is not set at birth, but grows and develops over time. Helping each student develop into a resilient, intelligent, resourceful, ethical, and compassionate human being is a more important goal than raising test scores or standardizing curriculum content.
7. **Curriculum in public schools must prepare students for a future of complexity and accelerating change.** School curriculum should be infused with the kind of creativity, engagement, and experimentation that preserves the human spirit and teaches students how to anticipate and meet future challenges. Public education must also help students grow their intelligence by developing habits of deep thinking, analytical skills, decision-making skills, and enduring understandings. Curriculum content should reflect agreed-upon learning outcomes.
 8. **Assessment practices must support optimal progress for all students** by collecting and studying evidence of learning in its many forms and using that evidence to make decisions about future learning needs. Moreover, assessments must be designed in ways to assist students in their pursuit of divergent interests.
 9. **The public's right to understand and guide the education system must be reflected in reasonable accountability methods.** These methods should address the responsibilities and impact of all components and participants in the public education system, including students, parents, teachers, administrators, schools, school boards, districts, communities, state education agencies, state and federal legislatures.
 10. **Teachers must be thoughtfully educated, highly regarded, valued, and respected members of a professional community** and compensated commensurate with their responsibilities, preparation, experience, and accomplishments.
 11. **Teacher preparation programs must be designed as clinically based models** of collaboration between teacher education and public pre K-12 institutions.
 12. **Vision and purpose should inform the kind of learning in which education professionals engage.** The shared vision, purpose, and identity of each school, district, or learning organization must guide its professional development efforts.
 13. Public education must identify and nurture the innovation and creativity that occur naturally within any complex organization in order to meet the evolving needs of students and families in a rapidly changing world.

Questionnaire Results

Names and offices sought are listed below along with the survey results from each candidate. Comments, if included by the candidate, are reprinted under the candidate's name. Most respondents who completed the questionnaire checked that all 13 principles are consistent with their own views on public education, but some candidates did not find that their own views were aligned with some of the CAPE Ohio principles.

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Comments from Candidates for State of Ohio Offices

Governor

Richard Cordray, Democratic Candidate

Comments about the CAPE Ohio principles:

Principle 1 on free public education from early childhood through college:

The statement is consistent with my views on primary and secondary education.

Principle 4 on school funding:

As a lawyer who has long practiced and taught constitutional law, I believe the General Assembly must start following the law. Twenty-seven years ago, my friend Bill Phillis and the Ohio Coalition for Equity & Adequacy of School Funding stood up for Ohio's students and filed a historic lawsuit. Twenty-one years ago, the Ohio Supreme Court first declared that Ohio's school funding system was unconstitutional. The Court ruled for the plaintiffs three more times, but the legislature has yet to comply with the Court's orders. We have made considerable progress on part of the problem – improving facilities around the state – but the operational funding has never followed.

As governor, I will relentlessly press for a school funding system that is fair as well as “thorough and efficient” under the Ohio Constitution. The quality of a child's education should not be determined by their zip code. With your help, I will work with the legislature to deliver this needed change and to end residual budgeting for Ohio schools. I will also work to fulfill the commitment that Ohio made to secure broadband access throughout the state, the lack of which has exacerbated the inequities in the current educational program.

Additional information for voters regarding the candidate’s vision for public education:

As mentioned above, Betty [Betty Sutton, lieutenant governor candidate] and I will reform the way in which we fund Ohio’s public schools. We will limit and refocus classroom testing on what matters most for students, with input from teachers. We will recreate an evaluation system that is fair to teachers and schools. And we will hold all charter schools accountable for their performance and for the effective use of public funds – including the closing of failing charters. In addition, the grotesque ECOT scandal demands civil and political – and if appropriate, criminal – accountability, We will do everything possible to recover these taxpayer funds, bring justice to those responsible, and reform state law to prevent this sort of taxpayer and student abuse from ever happening again.

Go to the Cordray website to read policy papers regarding the plan for universal pre-k <https://secure.cordrayforohio.com/page/content/on-the-issues/#education> and more accessible community college <https://secure.cordrayforohio.com/page/content/on-the-issues/#communitycollege>

**Comments from Candidates for Congress
Ohio 4th Congressional District**

Janet Garrett, Democratic Candidate

All 13 CAPE Ohio principles are consistent with the candidate’s views on public education.

Comments about the CAPE Ohio Principles:

As a former teacher, I am committed to strengthening our public schools and education system. First, we must have equitable funding across the nation. We must also develop national standards that emphasize critical thinking and a love of learning so that our children are well prepared for the future and a competitive economy. But we must also return the details of curriculum to teachers, respect their autonomy and their knowledge of their students, and give them the flexibility to engage their students in the way they see fit.

Additional information for voters regarding the candidate’s vision for public education:

We have got to cut back on testing; it takes away from instruction time and doesn't help them [students] learn. Though our students should be assessed, it should be in a manner that provides useful feedback so that our students can continue to grow and learn.

Constance Gadell-Newton, Green Party Candidate

All 13 CAPE Ohio principles are consistent with the candidate's views on public education.

Comments about the CAPE Ohio principles:

Thank you for your work in this area. You have done a nice job of laying out these principles. We want to increase the local government fund so all Ohio schools have adequate funding. We support public and community schools, as well as funding classrooms so teachers don't have to. Public education needs to be a priority in Ohio!

Ohio 5th Congressional District

J. Michael Galbraith, Democratic Candidate

All 13 CAPE Ohio principles are consistent with the candidate's views on public education.

Comments about the principles:

The questionable and concerning funding of charter schools must not compromise strong public education system funding.

Ohio 9th Congressional District

Steven W. Kraus, Republican Candidate

All 13 CAPE Ohio principles are consistent with the candidate's views on public education.

No additional comments

Ohio 15th Congressional District

Rick Neal, Democratic Candidate

All 13 CAPE Ohio principles are consistent with the candidate's views on public education.

No additional comments

Ohio 16th Congressional District

Susan Moran Palmer, Democratic Candidate

All 13 CAPE Ohio principles are consistent with the candidate's views on public education.

Additional information for voters regarding the candidate's vision for public education:

A strong public education system is the cornerstone of America's success, and it provided me with the ladder to climb throughout my life. In Congress, I will fight to renew our country's commitment to provide a strong public education for every American.

Comments from Candidates for State Senate

Ohio 19th State Senate District

Gary Cox, Green Party

All 13 CAPE Ohio principles are consistent with the candidate's views on public education.

Comments about the CAPE Ohio principles:

I totally agree with these principles. I believe teachers should be left alone by government. I believe teachers know more about education and little kids than government does. Let teachers teach, let government fund, not regulate. Government's role should be to provide air conditioning, light bulbs, running toilets, mold free carpet, libraries, arts, sciences, etc. A teacher's role is to teach, create, inspire, cooperate, and enrich the lives of little kids.

Additional information for voters regarding the candidate's vision for public education:

Charter schools are a scam and provide private, not public, benefits. Charter schools are merely another example of government outsourcing its services; yet our taxes are not

reduced proportionally. My vision is to return education to the public, non-profit sphere and to fund it accordingly.

Louise Valentine, Democratic Party

All 13 CAPE Ohio principles are consistent with the candidate's views on public education.

Comments about the CAPE Ohio principles:

Ohio's state government has failed our children for too long. Republicans have allowed public school funding and resources to be cut while they line the pockets of for-profit charter school CEOs. I will stand with teachers and students for fair and equitable funding, adequate resources, a decrease in standardized testing, flexibility for teachers, smaller classes, and stronger schools.

Additional information for voters regarding the candidate's vision for public education:

As a mother, I know the importance of public education. After graduating from Elyria High School and The Ohio State University, I started a family in Westerville. Now my twin 6-year-old boys attend Westerville City Schools. I want all of Ohio's children, including my own, to have the best education to help them succeed in life. That is why I support public education.

Comments from Candidates for State Representative in Central Ohio

22nd Ohio House of Representatives District

David Leland, Democratic Candidate

All 13 CAPE Ohio principles are consistent with his views on public education.

Comments about the CAPE Ohio principles:

A strong, vibrant public education system is the cornerstone of our democracy. It is also the essential building block for personal achievement.

23rd Ohio House of Representatives District

Laura Lanese, Republican Candidate

CAPE Principle 1 is not consistent with candidate's views on public education. CAPE Ohio principles 2-13 are consistent with her views on public education.

No additional comments

24th Ohio House of Representatives District

Catherine Allison Russo, Democratic Candidate

All 13 CAPE Ohio principles are consistent with his views on public education.

Comments about the CAPE Ohio principles:

Each and every child in Ohio deserves access to an excellent neighborhood public school in their community. In the general assembly, I will fight to make sure every child in Ohio—regardless of ZIP code—has access to high-quality public education that will grow a future generation of innovators and leaders.

Comments from Central Ohio Candidates

Franklin County Auditor

Michael Stinziano, Democratic Candidate

All 13 CAPE Ohio principles are consistent with the candidate's views on public education.

Comments about the CAPE Ohio Principles:

I fully support and commit to helping implement CAPE Ohio's Principles for Redefining Public Education as my vision for redefining and improving public education. I stand proudly with decision makers, students, parents, teachers, boards of education, legislators, and administrators, and commit to using these principles to develop policies and practices to improve public education in Ohio.

Additional information for voters regarding the candidate's vision for public education:

The County Auditor is responsible for setting property values within Franklin County. The tax revenue from these payments contributes to the formula for school funding. As auditor, my office will be committed to making the processes for these assessment and fair to ensure that the review of these assessments is timely and accessible. With

varying resources coming from state government, making sure that school districts can count on these processes gives them the ability to plan long term for the improvement of the classroom experience. I will be committed to providing strong, effective, and energetic leadership and pledge to work closely with you to promote issues affecting public education, improve government efficiency, work to bring government into the 21st century to ensure it is accessible when people need it to be, and ensure that misuse of taxpayer money is handled appropriately and swiftly. It is time we stop public corruption and finally hold our elected officials accountable.

Franklin County Commissioner

Michele Reynolds, Republican

All 13 CAPE Ohio principles are consistent with the candidate's views on public education.

Additional information for voters regarding the candidate's vision for public education:

I am a strong proponent of education and ensuring that our youth have access to both quality education and co-educational experiences. I support ongoing funding for youth enrichment programs including Youth Summer employment as an investment in the development of our youth as future leaders and scholars.