



Philadelphia 2015 Mayoral Report Card on Education

Candidate Name	Funding	Testing	Accountability	Stability	Community & Poverty	Overall
Lynne Abraham	C	A	C	B-	A-	B
Nelson Diaz	A	A	B-	A	A	A-
Jim Kenney	A	A+	A	A+	A+	A+
Doug Oliver	A-	A	C-	C	D	C+
Anthony Williams	D+	F	C+	C-	D-	D+

*Teacher Action Group did not receive a completed survey from mayoral candidate Milton Street
 Primary Elections will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2015.

Complete survey responses can be found @ tagphilly.org

As we all know, education is a critical issue in Philadelphia -- now, and always. As a city-wide coalition of teachers and education allies, Teacher Action Group represents thousands of votes. Every candidate supports "great schools". But how will their real policies affect real students?

We asked the candidates to agree or disagree with the following statements, leaving room for notes:

Funding

1. At the city level, excellent school funding requires politicians revisiting tax abatements, PILOTS (Payments in Lieu of Taxes), and increasing the city's contribution to the Philadelphia public schools.
2. Although schools will always need to adapt, fully funded education is a Constitutional and moral right. Funding for basic needs should never be predicated upon "reforms".

Testing

1. High-stakes testing should be reduced and not used to compare resource-starved schools against their wealthier counterparts.
2. Parents and students have the right to opt-out of high stakes testing without fear. Teachers should be able to share this information freely.

Stability and Equity

1. The "zero sum game" in Philadelphia is destructive; Philadelphia should abstain from charter conversions or closings until a fair and equitable funding system is in place.
2. School choice starts with great neighborhood schools able to serve all students.
3. Strong schools need strong teachers; teachers should be supported with fair treatment at the bargaining table, and deserve the right to organize no matter what type of school in which they work.

Accountability

1. The school district requires the resources and legal support to ensure charter school transparency and accountability.
2. Philadelphia needs a locally elected school board. As Mayor, anyone I would nominate to the SRC would support its dissolution.
3. The Mayor's Office will be committed to transparency and public participation in its work relating to the school district.

Community and poverty

1. Community schools that offer wraparound services from certified providers should be the model for the Philadelphia public school system.
2. Poverty is the number one driver of poor school performance