

# Education Under a Trump Administration

## GOP Platform

We're given a glance of education under a Trump administration in the official GOP platform. It is included in Chapter Seven (pp. 17-18) of the platform and is titled "CULTIVATE GREAT K-12 SCHOOLS LEADING TO GREAT JOBS AND GREAT LIVES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

[https://prod-static.gop.com/media/RNC2024-Platform.pdf?\\_gl=1\\*1wor4rx\\*\\_gcl\\_au\\*OTMyOTQ5MTI2LjE3MjQ1MDg2MzY.&\\_ga=2.114616961.762978624.1724508637-2010090414.1724508637](https://prod-static.gop.com/media/RNC2024-Platform.pdf?_gl=1*1wor4rx*_gcl_au*OTMyOTQ5MTI2LjE3MjQ1MDg2MzY.&_ga=2.114616961.762978624.1724508637-2010090414.1724508637)

The platform expands on this beginning with "our commitment" noting "Republicans offer a plan to cultivate great K-12 schools, ensure safe learning environments free from political meddling, and restore Parental Rights. We commit to an Education System that empowers students, supports families, and promotes American Values. Our Education System must prepare students for successful lives and well-paying jobs."

Nine points are listed in the GOP platform. In the interest of brevity, just the headers are listed below:

- 1.Great teachers
- 2.School choice
- 3.Prepare for jobs and careers
- 4.Safe, secure and drug-free schools
- 5.Restoration of parental rights
- 6.Knowledge and skills and not CRT and gender indoctrination
- 7.Promote love of country and authentic civic education
- 8.Freedom to pray
- 9.Return education to the states

Regarding point 7 above, the platform says, "Republicans will reinstate the 1776 Commission (the President's advisory commission created in January 2021) promote Fair and Patriotic Civics Education, and veto efforts to nationalize Civics Education. We will support schools that teach America's Founding Principles and Western Civilization." See the link to the 1776 Commission

document at <https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/The-Presidents-Advisory-1776-Commission-Final-Report.pdf>

Perhaps the major thing in the GOP platform for education is number nine which calls for the closure of the Department of Education in Washington DC. As noted in this section:

“The United States spends more money per pupil on Education than any other Country in the World, and yet we are at the bottom of every educational list in terms of results. We are going to close the Department of Education in Washington, D.C. and send it back to the States, where it belongs, and let the States run our educational system as it should be run.”

### Project 25

While the official GOP 2024 platform on education is only two pages, the “playbook” called Project 25 ([https://static.project2025.org/2025\\_MandateForLeadership\\_FULLL.pdf](https://static.project2025.org/2025_MandateForLeadership_FULLL.pdf)) includes far more materials and is 49 pages in length. The entire document, which is 887 pages long, was created by the think tank The Heritage Foundation. Democrats have criticized the document and Donald Trump professes unfamiliarity with it. But this does not mean he will not use some of its specific if elected President. One must remember that think tanks on both sides of the idea create recommendations and are not part of the pre-election platform.

Project 25 lists Four Pillars the project is built on. The Project 25 document forms the first pillar.

Pillar I—this volume—puts in one place a consensus view of how major federal agencies must be governed and where disagreement exists brackets out these differences for the next President to choose a path.

Pillar II is a personnel database that allows candidates to build their own professional profiles and our coalition members to review and voice their recommendations. These recommendations will then be collated and shared with the President-elect’s team, greatly streamlining the appointment process.

Pillar III is the Presidential Administration Academy, an online educational system taught by experts from our coalition. For the newcomer, this will explain how the government functions and how to function in government. For the experienced, we will host in-person seminars with advanced training and set the bar for what is expected of senior leadership.

In Pillar IV—the Playbook—we are forming agency teams and drafting transition plans to move out upon the President’s utterance of “so help me God.”

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Chapter 11 of Project 25 addresses education and is written by Lindsey Burke, Director of the Center for Education Policy at The Heritage Foundation. In an Overview at the beginning of chapter Burke writes:

“For most of our history, the federal government played a minor role in education. Then, over a 14-month period beginning in 1964, Congress planted the seeds for what would become the U.S. Department of Education (ED or the department). In July of that year, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Civil Rights Act of 1964, after Congress reached a consensus that the mistreatment of black Americans was no longer tolerable and merited a federal response. In the case of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA)<sup>2</sup> and the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA),<sup>3</sup> Congress sought to improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged students by providing additional compensatory funding for low-income children and lower-income college students.”

Burke notes that “Spending on ESEA and the HEA—part of Johnson’s “War on Poverty”—grew exponentially in the years that followed. By Fiscal Year 2022, ESEA programs received \$27.7 billion in appropriations, in addition to \$190 billion that came through the pandemic’s Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds,<sup>4</sup> which relied on ESEA formulas.”

Burke lists a few core education principles to follow as the next Administration executes its work. They are briefly summarized below:

Advancing education freedom. Empowering families to choose among a diverse set of education option.

Providing education choice for “federal” children.

Restoring state and local control over education funding.

Treating taxpayers like investors in federal student aid.

Protecting the federal student loan portfolio from predatory politicians.

Safeguarding civil rights. Enforcement of civil rights should be based on a proper understanding of those laws, rejecting gender ideology and critical race theory.

Stopping executive overreach. Congress should set policy—not Presidents through pen-and-phone executive orders, and not agencies through regulations and guidance.

After this beginning, Chapter 7 on education goes on for another 40 pages providing detailed recommendations for carrying out the core principles listed above.

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The ability to execute on the GOP Platform as - well as Project 25 – depends not just on Trump becoming President but Republicans also taking control of the House and Senate.

I encourage all to go directly to the document links provided in this article.