The Thurgood Marshall Plan for Public Schools and Educators

The American education system is profoundly segregated both racially and economically. Teachers are severely underpaid and schools are crumbling. Draconian, high-stakes testing policies are taking the joy out of learning and penalizing under-resourced public schools. Billionaires like Betsy DeVos and the Walton family are working to privatize public education – drawing vital resources from public schools and intensifying segregation.

Our Thurgood Marshall Plan for Public Schools and Educators addresses problems of racial and economic segregation in our schools by calling for a transformative investment in our children, our teachers, our schools—and our country’s future.

The Sanders plan for education is incisive, intelligent, well-informed, and bold.

Diane Ravitch, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Education, author of several national bestsellers and leading advocate for public schools and teachers

Sen. Sanders’s education plan stands head and shoulders above the rest of the presidential field in its commitment to education as a public good. It is a model for a properly functioning education system in a democracy, one that puts the needs and concerns of parents, students, and teachers before those of profiteers.

Adolph Reed, Jr. - Professor Emeritus of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania and renowned theorist on race and American politics.
Our Plan

1. Combats racial discrimination by supporting local strategies to desegregate schools and expanding teacher-training programs at HBCUs, and tribal and minority-serving institutions.

2. Ends the unaccountable profit-motive of charter schools by banning for-profit charter schools and supporting the NAACP’s moratorium on public funds for charter school expansion.

3. Provides equitable funding for public schools by tripling Title I funding and establishing a national per-pupil spending floor.

4. Strengthens the individuals with disabilities education act (IDEA) by ensuring that the federal government provides at least fifty percent of the funding for special education and giving special education teachers the support they need.

5. Gives teachers a much-deserved raise by setting a starting salary for teachers at no less than $60,000, expanding collective bargaining rights and teacher tenure, and funding out-of-pocket expenses for classroom materials.

6. Substantially expands access to summer and after-school programs, teen centers, and tutoring.

7. Provides year-round, free, universal school meals, and incentivizes locally sourced food.

8. Significantly expands funding for community schools that provide a holistic approach to learning and the well-being of our young people.

9. Rebuilds, modernizes, and greens our nation’s schools so that our children learn in healthy environments.

10. Makes schools safe and inclusive by protecting the rights of all students from harassment, discrimination, and violence, and enacting comprehensive gun violence prevention laws.

Bernie’s strong and ethical education platform is exactly what I’ve hoped for. His courageous and unqualified support for racial integration of our public schools sets him apart from the timid and equivocating centrists who have put unprincipled consensus ahead of social justice in the primary campaigns.

Jonathan Kozol, National Book Award recipient and outspoken activist for public schools and racial equality

Ninety percent of parents in this country send their kids to public schools, and they want those public schools to be a top priority. That’s why Sen. Sanders’ plan to invest in public schools and provide real accountability over private alternatives is vitally important.

Randi Weingarten, President, American Federation of Teachers Union

For details on the plan, visit: berniesanders.com