

Candidates on education

DEMOCRATS

Karl Dean

I think Tennessee has benefited from Governor Haslam's and Governor Bredesen's commitment to making public education a priority but we need to continue to increase education funding. Lack of resources should not be a barrier to student success or to teacher retention and recruitment.

I started my career in the Nashville Public Defender's office and learned a lot about how important a quality education is. My clients were overwhelmingly high school dropouts, so I saw a direct connection between public safety, economic success and education. All children in Tennessee deserve access to a high quality education.

As Mayor of Nashville, I worked with the Metro Council to:

- Increase funding for Nashville schools by 37 percent.
- Increase new teacher pay from 30th to 3rd in the state.
- Invest \$629 million in school buildings and other capital infrastructure for the school district.
- Graduation rates increased by nearly 20% from 2005 to 2015.
- From 2009-2016, 18% of MNPS students have advanced at least one achievement level on annual state assessments.

As governor, I will do the same for the state by:

- Making education a priority in every budget while I am in office with an emphasis on paying our teachers more. We should also make sure that teachers have the support through professional development and teacher prep programs to continually receive updates and training to help them in the classroom.
- Being open to changes to the BEP (Basic Education Program) to increase funding for districts that do not benefit from the sales tax base larger cities do.
- Making an investment in expanding pre-Kindergarten and early literacy programs.
- Investing in expanding voca-



tional and technical programs.

- Fixing TNReady issues by calling for an extensive analysis of what went wrong and putting a plan in place to prevent mistakes in an open and transparent way with the help of teachers and parents.

Craig Fitzhugh

Education is always a good investment; unlike material goods, it is the one thing that cannot be taken away from an individual. I applaud Gov. Haslam for his work (along with the legislature) on Tennessee Promise and the Tennessee Reconnect programs.

The financial barriers for starting and finishing a college education in Tennessee are dwindling, and companies wanting to locate in Tennessee, or companies that are here but want to expand will have a larger and more prepared workforce at their disposal. As technology advances, we must make sure that our colleges and TCAT's have the latest equipment, and the next governor must lead the charge on keeping our schools current, not only for traditional college students but also for returning adults and workers looking to retrain for new careers.

In the next four to eight years, we must make sure that when students graduate, they are prepared for college and the working world. Students need to leave high school with the academic readiness to begin college and not have to take remedial courses that will not count towards their education. We must invest in universal pre-K. Children who attend pre-kindergarten programs and can read at grade level by the third grade are much more likely to succeed in school than those children who cannot. Also, investing in education means investing in our teachers and paying them for the good work that they do. In many cases, teachers spend more time with children than their parents do, due to work, commutes, etc. They have a huge impact on the lives of our children. We want the best professionals in our classrooms, and we must allow teachers to inspire a child's desire to learn, not just to take tests.



U.S. SENATE CANDIDATES
REPUBLICAN

Marsha Blackburn

Every student in Tennessee should have the opportunity to reach their full academic potential and attend schools that educate them for 21st century challenges and opportunities. When our students graduate, they should be prepared with skills for life and ready for whatever path they choose.

For too long, poor performance hurt our next generation of Tennesseans, but Governor Haslam has been a transformational leader in education. We must continue to build on the foundation he has laid. To do so, we must get the federal government out of the classroom and send control back to the states.

Our children receive the best education when we empower those who best know what they need—not only teachers, but also parents and local communities—and so we must send authority back to them. What works best for students in Chattanooga might not work for students in Memphis, and what works in Tennessee might not work in California—that is why we need flexibility at the state and local level to let those closest to the students make the decision about what is best to do.

Tennessee's conservative common sense approaches should be applied to education, and that includes: expanding school choice, increasing charter school options, making homeschooling easier, and supporting state and local control of education.

When I talk with teachers, they tell me how they are forced to comply with unnecessary bureaucratic red tape. We should eliminate that paperwork burden for our teachers and streamline the testing process. Doing so will allow teachers the ability to teach children in a way consistent with how they learn.

Treating education as a one-size-fits-all system shortchanges the next generation, and it is imperative to send resources and control back to the states on this issue, so that leaders, like Governor Haslam, have the opportunity to improve the education our next generation receives.



DEMOCRAT
Philip Bredesen

While I'm currently a candidate for the US Senate, I was Tennessee's Governor from 2003-2011 and have a track record of strong support for Tennessee public education. I will continue that commitment in the U.S. Senate.

Every candidate for public office pledges their support for education. The real test though is this: after the election, when there are choices to be made, when there is political capital at stake, where does education actually end up in their priority list?

I'm proud of what we achieved on my watch:

- When I took office in 2003, I inherited a fiscal crisis which was dealt with by cutting every department of government by 9% except K-12 education. K-12 was not cut.
- Even larger cuts were required during the Great Recession, again, K-12 education was the only area which was not cut.
- Tennessee became a leader in the standards movement. Our standards went from being rated "F" by the US Chamber of Commerce to being ranked 2nd in the nation.
- We increased teacher pay, especially in rural areas.
- We instituted a broad, statewide Pre-K program.
- When the "Race to the Top" competition was announced by the Department of Education, Tennessee was one of only two states to win in the first round of judging. The result was a grant of \$500 million to support our strategy for excellence.

These changes were made with bipartisan support in the Legislature and support from business and community leaders across Tennessee. Governor Haslam has continued to build on, add to and improve these reforms, and Tennessee achieved the status of being the fastest-improving state in the nation in its test scores.

In the U.S. Senate, I will join with Tennessee's next Governor to keep the momentum alive. Our kids deserve nothing less.



Thank You For Voting Us #1
Manufactured Homes in Warren County



MEADOWS
HOMES
Of McMinnville

4651 Manchester Hwy.
McMinnville, TN 37110
931-668-7300
meadowshomes.com

