



## In 30 Words or less what guidance would you give to President Obama for the next steps or priorities to transform education in the USA?

Listen to students, parents and teachers.

Increase transparency and accountability (publish test scores), and permit more forms of parent choice (vouchers, charters, public school choice). Close failure factories! Learn from KIPP, Mastery Charter Schools, Uncommon Schools!

Mandate smaller classes with competent teachers, have parents involved in school mandatory. State testing doesn't teach students anything.

Stop looking at testing as the barometer for learning. It isn't! Instead look at the potential of teachers and students as a team for learning and growth.

Redefine "school day" and redefine "classroom". Our goals need to change-we need real learning, not test learning.

Please recognize that NCLB and the emphasis on high-stakes testing are destroying the public education system. This is about nothing more than profits for the testing companies. Just because a child can complete multiple choice tests by process of information doesn't mean he can write a sentence or have the necessary love of learning and skills to succeed in life.

If we want our kids to be the best and brightest, it's time to come up with new systems of assessment. Standardized testing doesn't work preparing kids for their futures.

Focus less on assessment and place more emphasis on developing the whole child and creating life-long learners.

Many small grassroots efforts brought a change agent to the white house; let's call on them to lead reform to our aging pedagogical system.

Laser focused on success and running the education system like a business where profit (student success) is maximized. Transparency is critical so that integrity is at the core of that business.

Every government takes the high stakes test associated with their state. If they don't pass it they lose their jobs. Maybe then they would see how ridiculous this situation is.

Have the federal government hire a team in the top five cities of the USA to create a partnership between industry, universities, the arts, and health care (including mental health professionals) to support the inner city schools.
School needs to be a balance between developmental and educational growth. The Department of Education has lost sight of the child as a being.
I would love to see a dialogue open with a sampling of a wide range of teachers committed to student excellence which all facets of students' lives are taken into account.
Give educators and administrators the freedom to change what they do. Let them hire and fire. Let them teach in new ways. America is rooted in innovation and we need to let our teachers innovate.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create National Standards in all Content Areas - Focus on Depth not Breadth.</li> <li>2. Create National Assessments to match standards in all Content Areas.</li> <li>3. Provide professional development for teachers so they can instruct and assess according to National Standards.</li> </ol>
Conduct a comparative education study between countries that are doing better than the US and implement some of the things they are right.
Focus less on numbers and more on the process of learning. Listen to parents, students, and teachers when developing policy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-education should take precedence over the military</li> <li>-test based education doesn't produce creative thought</li> </ul>
Need to shift mentality from being "the best" and the notion of having "broken" schools to communities committed to passionate, intellectually engaging personalized learning. This is not just for students, but for educators as well!
I would ask Obama to look into researching and improving special education in our country.
I would ask him to remove the emphasis on testing and to invest in the children in public schools by addressing the needs of those in poverty.
Prioritize in Science education. Put emphasis in math especially. Let all courses whether science or arts incorporate math. Let science begin from middle school so that children may grow up adapted to science. Countries lagging in sciences education have no future.
The public needs to stop complaining about what teachers make, arguing about taxes, and blaming the educational system for students who are not achieving and work together with the President to support and elevate schools to places of continual learning, producing life long learners using committed teachers, the latest technology and accessing the many literacies in the global world today..
Development on an social network for educators encouraging user-developed resources with a rating system based on research based standards. To live, "We are who we have been waiting for!"
Take a good hard look at the public education system as it is today. Besides technology, there hasn't been much change since the early 1900s. Let's get creative; use students' left and right brains. Create more arts programs rather than dissolve them.
Make academic time sacred.
Fire Arne Duncan and hire Linda Darling Hammond. And create schools and situations, in public schools, that you would want for your own children.
Get back to the basics of learning but use the advances in technology to help the teacher and engage the students. Status quo is just not good enough. Education Equals Economics

Fund programs for technology and innovation. Every child needs a mobile device and internet connectivity at school and at home!
I don't think I can answer this adequately, because I assume that most of the problems with education are social problems that exist in the family and community. I think this is a fair assumption. What can the President do about transforming families and culture?
President Obama should continue to investigate successful school systems of other countries, paying particular attention to the structure. Our current system needs to be re-invented, not bandaged continually.
Every morning in Africa a gazelle wakes up. It knows it must run faster than the fastest lion or it will be killed.  Every morning a lion wakes up. It knows it must outrun the slowest gazelle or it will starve to death.  It doesn't matter whether you are a lion or gazelle. When the sun comes up, you better start running.
Students. Not teachers. Administrators. Politicians. School boards. Or anyone else with an agenda, should be the focus of education. Give power back to schools.
Reduce college to 3 years, enlarge class sizes so more Americans can go to college
Focus on developing core skills of empathy, teamwork, leadership, and change-making by helping students to comprehend and re-imagine the big picture of humanity's place in the cosmos.
We need to stress how technology can support personalized learning for all students.
Stop with standardized testing and relook at no child left behind.
Dear President, We are at a crossroads with the state of education in our country. Which road will we travel? The harder one that will take resiliency or the easy one that we are currently traveling on?
A focus on global ethics and social entrepreneurship....
Listen to the people who work with kids from day to day about what they think works and how they effectively assess student growth. Let's teach the whole child.
Get rid of No Child Left Behind. Reward public school teachers that teach outside the box and show significant student progress, and allow teachers to be the professionals they are!
Let teachers lead the way
Work to establish a system that allows all students to experience the educational environment that your daughters experience.
PROFESSIONAL educators need to be recognized as professionals, treated with fairness, and helped with areas of deficiency. Systems that only "punish" don't work.
What is more important: having a child pass a multiple-choice exam or having a child develop a passion for lifelong learning?

<p>I would like to tell the President to listen to the teachers. We are the ones who are dealing directly with the social, educational and disciplinarian problems in our schools. Shouldn't we also have some ideas for the solution? Why don't you try asking us instead of taking an authoritarian, top down rule from someone who hasn't been in the classroom for twenty years.</p>
<p>Without parental involvement, children's education can not happen. Education begins at home first, so in order to reach the child, you need to reach the parents. Schools need to collaborate more within their communities in working with parents to bring their home life in sync with what the kids are learning. In this economy that is hard to accomplish. Bring in higher educated teachers, creating working groups in the classroom based on where a child is in their process, and having parents work with the school on individual basis would help. Schools don't need to teach just the kids, but they need to teach the parents to support the kids, eat right, read to their kids, study with their kids, etc. Our country's education is failing because the American family is disintegrating. Parents don't have time to sit at the dinner table with their children any longer and read, or study math questions. Schools need to adapt to the economy in knowing this, and send home innovative ways for parents to re-engage their kids.</p>
<p>what does it really mean to educate a child?</p>
<p>There is not one way or one person that can transform the current education system. We need to begin thinking outside of the box and outside of the four walls of a classroom.</p>
<p>Create opportunities for students to innovate, create, and adapt so they can be the next leaders in the global economy.</p>
<p>Get rid of NCLB; find ways to reward good teachers with better salaries so they stay in education.</p>
<p>Begin at the beginning: allocate the greatest number of educational supports and resources at the elementary levels. Give children the strongest most supportive start, and reduce the need for damage control later.</p>
<p>There is no initiative more important than education, fund it that way.</p>
<p>Rethink education based on competencies students will need to know for the future. How are we challenging all learners (including teachers, administrators and parents?) What is our role within this work?</p>
<p>I would ask Obama to put more emphasis on creativity and the arts, and less emphasis on standardizing education. I would ask him to bring the best technology into schools, to get kids up to speed, to allow them to be a part of the technological world we live in. Allow them to make their own choices and decide what feeds their educational soul.</p>
<p>Recruit the best, let them innovate, and facilitate sharing of best practices.</p>
<p>Be open and honest about the real issues facing the education reform movement. Unless you do this, there is no hope.</p>
<p>Make way for localism to solve local problems while using bureaucracy only for those who fail to engage in local solutions.</p>
<p>Serve all students and all educators, not just public schools. Our country was founded with freedoms being important, religion and educational choices have been born of those freedoms.</p>
<p>Remove top-down mandates and "race to the top" competitions. Refocus assessment using measurements that are not standardized and multiple choice.</p>
<p>Students are richly diverse in many ways and we need to capitalize upon it, not extinguish it in the name of standardization and accountability. No Child Left Behind has held many of our students back ~ abolish the testing and let students learn how to learn again.</p>
<p>I think that a major priority in improving American education is providing the best, well rounded teachers/professors. In doing this I propose that just because a teacher has tenure shouldn't mean that they have a guaranteed job. Teachers need to provide their students with knowledge, passion, and encouragement and many teachers with tenure do not provide their students those capabilities.</p>

Listen and help The First Lady to continue to change the way we feed our children. We all can recognize the connection between good nutrition, health and education.