

Florida PTA Candidate Questionnaire

Email address *

[REDACTED]

Name: *

Bob White

Candidate for: *

Governor

1. What are your top priorities for improving public education? In your opinion, what do we do well as a state and how can we improve Pre-K-12 education?

My education reform proposals can be found here: <http://bobforflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Children-First-Education-Policy.pdf>

2. How will you ensure that public schools are adequately funded and operate effectively so that all children achieve academic success and reach their full potential?

Increasing the budget is not always the answer. Adopting my education reform proposals will significantly improve educational outcomes and academic success, and will have the added bonus of moving some existing funds from administrative functions to classroom instruction thereby increasing the amount of money being spent on classroom instruction without increasing the overall budget.

3. What efforts will you take to ensure that culturally/critically responsive instruction is the norm and not the exception?

Again, I refer you to my reform proposals. If you take the time to review them I believe you will find that I have made education a higher priority than any of my opponents in either party. It's 11 pages but it's worth the read. <http://bobforflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Children-First-Education-Policy.pdf>

4. How do you plan to expand bilingual education opportunities for English Language Learners and teachers alike?

We need to transform the Florida Department of Education from a top down bureaucracy that demands accountability into an agency that gets in the trenches along side the districts and helps them deliver on their mission to provide a quality education for ALL students. We need more "Best Practices" workshops and forums sponsored by the department where district staff and teachers can learn from each other how they've successfully handled many of these kinds of issues. I put my reform proposals together AFTER I had traveled the state and had conversations with parents, teachers, principals, superintendents and school board members. I will continue to seek input from all stakeholders when approaching issues like the one raised in this question.

5. How can the government effectively partner with parents and families to support student and school success – especially in underserved communities?

We need to encourage more partnerships between individual schools and local churches and other community organizations. My church partners with an elementary school that would be considered part of an "underserved community" and the results have been very positive.

6. What are you going to do to incorporate the voice, participation, and leadership from parents in order to close the gap in academic achievement for students of color?

This is a tough one. Parental involvement can make a huge difference in improving educational outcomes for kids but it can't be forced on parents. We have to recognize that in many families both parents are working and sometimes more than one job. We have to do everything we can to encourage involvement including making sure that our schools create a welcoming environment for parents. Often, a partnership like the one I referred to in the prior question can help in this regard.

7. How would you ensure that the constitutional requirement for a safe and secure school environment is provided to every child?

Hardening facilities is certainly part of the solution. Increased funding for SROs is also important. I also support the school martial program.

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