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Education

I believe that primary school education is a state issue and I would love to see the U.S. Department of Education eliminated or only exist for the states that choose to use it at their own discretion. With states responsible for the education of their children they will provide 50 solutions for better education at lower prices and some of them will have great success with this. The other states will quickly follow their lead and implement similar programs. With the federal government mandates and control of primary education we have a one size fits all approach, which leads to a lack of regional and state educational variety. We need to cling to our local heritage and history as well as training for jobs that the students are likely to have when they grow up. We certainly should not force every school across the nation to provide education only how the federal government wants them to.

I also feel that continuing education should be available to all students and that college educations are entirely too expensive now. They educate a lot of very poor students in India for a fraction of what it costs to educate them here. Colleges have a lot of focus on extracurricular activities and sports now when they were formed to provide classroom education as their primary purpose. Let's promote some schools that focus on education only and create better ways to help fund students based on their performance and willingness to work on campus or in community service while in school.

Within my state I would love to see a school voucher system so students can go to a church based school, charter school or a public school as they see fit. This will create better education through competition with parents choosing the school that fits their children the best. Schools will also be more tailored to the needs of the students. It is unfair for parents to send their children to alternate schools at their own expense and get no credit for it even though they are paying their property and income taxes. My family even did home schooling one year for one of our boys and it turned out great and got him a jump in school. Even though he is young for his grade, he is getting great report card marks and participates in our school's accelerated program.

In Ohio we have had an unconstitutional school funding formula for many years that our government has yet to address in a legal or a fair manner. I am not running for state office, but I am appalled that this has not been fixed already and that Ohioans have had to tolerate this lack of action for so long. Our teachers need to be able to focus on the students' needs and not be overwhelmed with paperwork and standardized testing. The time they used to use for getting to know their students and building relationships with them has been reduced dramatically. I just want to see our school funding used to teach students the important things we all learned years ago and not be so focused on technology, using computers and being wired to the internet. I learned a lot without any of that and it can be learned on your own now, unlike the computers and S/W of the past. Where computers make for better education they are a great tool, but to be in use just to teach about the computers and their use alone, they are not necessary.

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