

VOTE
Mayor and City Council
election, May 19

CITY ELECTION PLATFORM

We demand the schools our children and families need.
For too long, our city's political leadership has settled for a two-tier school system that consigns the majority of children, most of whom are from poor families of color, to understaffed schools that lack the basic resources essential to a decent education. This situation is not inevitable but rather is the result of political choices made by those we have elected. There is a different way.

WE CALL FOR:

SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS. Sustainable community schools are neighborhood public schools that provide wraparound services for students and their families, engaging curriculum and positive behavior supports, and involve parents and the community in school decision-making. We call for 10 percent of Philadelphia schools to become sustainable community schools over the next four years and for federal school improvement grants to be used exclusively for that purpose.

A MORATORIUM ON CHARTER SCHOOL EXPANSION. As a first step toward genuine accountability, charter schools must be regulated to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely and for the purpose of education. Legislation that creates meaningful audits and transparency is necessary. Moreover, charter growth creates new budget challenges in the form of stranded costs that the school district can ill afford. Finally, charter school policy has created an uneven playing field that disadvantages traditional public schools.

FULL AND FAIR FUNDING. Robust revenue and a fair funding formula from the state are essential to improving our schools, but that doesn't mean the city can't do more. We call for reforming the use and occupancy tax to eliminate the tax windfall large

commercial interests received with the implementation of the Actual Value Initiative, eliminating tax abatements on the schools' portion of the property tax, and negotiating more PILOTs [payments in lieu of taxes] for mega nonprofits. We call on our city's most powerful corporation, Comcast, to pay its fair share to fund public schools as a condition of its new franchise agreement with the city.

FIGHTING FOR RACIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE AS A MEANS TO EQUAL EDUCATION. The relationship between poverty and education outcomes requires that genuine education reform be linked with the fight for economic fairness. We call for a \$15-an-hour minimum wage and support the right of all workers to organize themselves in unions. We also call for ending the school-to-prison pipeline, which is shorthand for the zero-tolerance discipline policies, racial profiling and racially discriminatory criminal justice system that penalize young people of color.

LOCAL CONTROL OF SCHOOLS. State control has failed to improve our schools and violates basic democratic principles. Philadelphians must have a role in selecting who should govern our schools, as do citizens in virtually every other community in the state. Act 46, the state control act, must be repealed and a democratic form of governance instituted in our city.