

Teacher Action Group's Education Report Card

Candidate Evaluation

Max Myers

	Democrat	Completed survey
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<p>Fair Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reverse \$1 Billion in cuts Implement Fair Funding Formula 	B	<p>Strongly Agrees fair funding is needed, but does not have a concrete plan and has not committed to a number. "We need to return to the equalization subsidy for basic ed funding that was in place under Rendell".</p>
<p>High Stakes Testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Believes they are harmful to students, create an unfair playing field for schools Opposes tests as a barometer for school success 	A	<p>Strongly Agree. Decries tests that "punish" schools and cut into teaching time. Should be used instead to see where additional resources are needed.</p>
<p>Transparency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports full transparency for all schools receiving tax dollars Supports a common, transparent application process for schools 	B	<p>Myers believes that financial information on schools should be available to "those who want the information", but "some people can't appropriately handle that kind of information." Charters should be held to the "same entrance standards that public schools are held to."</p>
<p>Labor Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In favor of replacing the SRC with a locally elected school board Supports teachers' right to organize 	A	<p>Agrees that there should be locally elected school boards because "ownership and buy-in" of the community is important. Believes due process and collective bargaining are "common sense".</p>
<p>Teaching and Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers and administrators should have control over their own curriculum Elementary students should be able to walk to school 	A-	<p>Myers is "neutral" on teachers and principals controlling local curriculum. They "should have a role", but elected school boards should "remain as members of the process." States he understands the "economic pressures" that have led to some closings, but closing schools contributes to "disconnection". Strongly agrees that students need comprehensive health/social services in schools.</p>

[Max Meyers' campaign video on education](#)

Teacher Action Group's Education Report Card

Candidate Evaluation

John Hanger

	Democrat	Completed survey
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<p>Fair Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reverse \$1 Billion in cuts ▪ Implement Fair Funding Formula 	A	<p>Hanger promises to reverse the \$1 Billion in cuts to education made during Corbett's tenure, and raise the state's contribution to Philadelphia school funding from 32% to 50%. He also opposes vouchers.</p>
<p>High Stakes Testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Believes they are harmful to students, create an unfair playing field for schools ▪ Opposes tests as a barometer for school success 	A	<p>Hangar is "totally opposed" to the number of tests students are now taking, and also opposes standardized test performance as a graduation requirement.</p>
<p>Transparency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports full transparency for all schools receiving tax dollars ▪ Supports a common, transparent application process for schools 	A	<p>Hangar strongly agrees that financial information of all schools funded by taxes should be transparent "to the last dollar." and calls for a "complete overhaul" of charter school oversight. He supports charter schools that are successful when measured by the same standards that public schools are held to.</p>
<p>Labor Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In favor of replacing the SRC with a locally elected school board ▪ Supports teachers' right to organize 	A	<p>Hanger is in favor of "abolishing the school reform commission in Philadelphia" and strongly favors a locally elected school board. He believes that "we need to attack poverty and stop attacking teachers."</p>
<p>Teaching and Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teachers and administrators should have control over their own curriculum ▪ Elementary students should be able to walk to school 	B+	<p>Hanger feels that teachers, principals, and locally elected school boards should all have input into curriculum. He strongly agrees that elementary school children should be able to walk to school.</p>

[Hanger's education policy online:](#)

Teacher Action Group's Education Report Card

Candidate Evaluation

Allyson Schwartz

Democrat

Completed survey

Fair Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reverse \$1 Billion in cutsImplement Fair Funding Formula	B-	Repeatedly called to “reverse Corbett’s nearly \$1 billion of extreme cuts”. Supported sale of district-owned artwork to support schools. Supports a “new funding formula” based on need, not political clout of the representative. Opposes vouchers.
High Stakes Testing <ul style="list-style-type: none">Believes they are harmful to students, create an unfair playing field for schoolsOpposes tests as a barometer for school success	B	Schwartz believes “we cannot judge performance using standardized tests alone”. However, she supports the new teacher evaluation law, which weighs standardized tests far above other factors.
Transparency <ul style="list-style-type: none">Supports full transparency for all schools receiving tax dollarsSupports a common, transparent application process for schools	A	Schwartz is “outraged by lack of transparency regarding Pennsylvania’s charter schools”. Also focused on preventing Charters from “skimming” stronger students from Public Schools.
Labor Relations <ul style="list-style-type: none">In favor of replacing the SRC with a locally elected school boardSupports teachers’ right to organize	A	Schwartz would abolish the SRC, a move she fought as a State Senator. Supports rights of teachers to organize. Sees no difference between teachers in Philadelphia and other counties in this regard.
Teaching and Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none">Teachers and administrators should have control over their own curriculumElementary students should be able to walk to school	A	Wants teachers, administrators “at the table” in creation of curriculum, but does not support full local control. Agrees that schools should be walkable as they are “anchors” in the community. Strongly agrees that outside factors like health care are crucial. Schwartz’s plan includes a universal preschool program.

[Read Allyson Schwartz’s Education Proposal Here](#)

Teacher Action Group's Education Report Card

Candidate Evaluation

Rob McCord

Democrat

Completed survey

<p>Fair Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reverse \$1 Billion in cuts ▪ Implement Fair Funding Formula 	B+	<p>Supports Rendell's funding policy, wants more money going to "challenged" districts. Wants to seek out other revenue so the current property-tax system does not create "winners and losers".</p>
<p>High Stakes Testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Believes they are harmful to students, create an unfair playing field for schools ▪ Opposes tests as a barometer for school success 	C+	<p>Sees high stakes testing as a way to "ensure [students] are ready", but supports reforms. McCord says high stakes tests create stress on schools and drain resources from them.</p>
<p>Transparency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports full transparency for all schools receiving tax dollars ▪ Supports a common, transparent application process for schools 	A	<p>McCord says all taxpayer funded education institutions should be held to an equal and high level of transparency.</p>
<p>Labor Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In favor of replacing the SRC with a locally elected school board ▪ Supports teachers' right to organize 	B	<p>Support abolishing the SRC, cites "a longstanding and respected tradition of local control". Believes that outside involvement is sometimes necessary; does not agree with appointed politicians "dictating" to local communities. McCord states all teachers in PA should be afforded collective bargaining rights.</p>
<p>Teaching and Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teachers and administrators should have control over their own curriculum ▪ Elementary students should be able to walk to school 	A	<p>Says that teachers and principals should have "significant input" in curriculum along with the state and other entities. Stresses parental input as crucial. Believes in safe transport to school rather than a walkable one. Supports community works in school, including health services, although vague on their effect on learning.</p>

Teacher Action Group's Education Report Card

Candidate Evaluation

Katie McGinty

	Democrat	Completed survey
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<p>Fair Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reverse \$1 Billion in cuts Implement Fair Funding Formula 	<p>B-</p>	<p>Strongly and repeatedly supports “reversing” Corbett’s cut. “Strongly Agrees” that PA needs a fair funding formula; calls for an “open, transparent, and objective” way to distribute education funds. No concrete plan or commitment to a number.</p>
<p>High Stakes Testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Believes they are harmful to students, create an unfair playing field for schools Opposes tests as a barometer for school success 	<p>B-</p>	<p>Strongly agrees that too many resources are spent on standardized testing. However, no mention of this issue in her education plan.</p>
<p>Transparency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports full transparency for all schools receiving tax dollars Supports a common, transparent application process for schools 	<p>A</p>	<p>Strongly agrees that charters must be held to the same transparency levels as other schools; supports a common application process. Specifically mentions charter school funding reforms as a means to save money.</p>
<p>Labor Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In favor of replacing the SRC with a locally elected school board Supports teachers’ right to organize 	<p>B-</p>	<p>Strongly agrees that Philadelphia needs a locally elected school board and that teachers in all counties have the right to collective bargaining. No details mentioned in her education plan.</p>
<p>Teaching and Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers and administrators should have control over their own curriculum Elementary students should be able to walk to school 	<p>B-</p>	<p>Strongly agrees on importance for services for students and walkability of schools. Strongly agrees with local control of curriculum, but no specific mentions in her education plan.</p>

[Read Katie McGinty's Plan Here](#)

Teacher Action Group's Education Report Card

Candidate Evaluation

Tom Wolf

	Democrat	Completed survey
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<p>Fair Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reverse \$1 Billion in cuts ▪ Implement Fair Funding Formula 	A	<p>Plans to start a “costing-out study” that will determine a new funding formula for Philadelphia. Wants Pennsylvania to fund 50% of all public education costs at the state level.</p>
<p>High Stakes Testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Believes they are harmful to students, create an unfair playing field for schools ▪ Opposes tests as a barometer for school success 	A	<p>Strongly agrees. Testing should not take up weeks of instructional time.</p>
<p>Transparency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports full transparency for all schools receiving tax dollars ▪ Supports a common, transparent application process for schools 	B	<p>Strongly agrees. However, Wolf would like all schools with admissions to be made randomly “like with charter school enrollment”, which demonstrates a lack of understanding in how the charter system works.</p>
<p>Labor Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In favor of replacing the SRC with a locally elected school board ▪ Supports teachers' right to organize 	A	<p>Strongly agrees teachers in all counties in Pennsylvania can organize. Decries any education policy that “starts with an attack on teachers.”</p>
<p>Teaching and Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teachers and administrators should have control over their own curriculum ▪ Elementary students should be able to walk to school 	B+	<p>Understands that Elementary Schools are community anchors and closing school causes disruption within a community. Does not agree on walking distance specifically because of rural districts in the state.</p>

Teacher Action Group's Education Report Card
Candidate Evaluation

Tom Corbett

	Republican	Did not Complete Survey
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<p>Fair Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reverse \$1 Billion in cuts Implement Fair Funding Formula 	F	<p>Did nothing to replace federal stimulus dollars that ran out early in his tenure; watched overall funding for schools drop by \$1 billion as a result. Held \$45 million in funding from Philadelphia while demanding labor concessions.</p>
<p>High Stakes Testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Believes they are harmful to students, create an unfair playing field for schools Opposes tests as a barometer for school success 	D	<p>Supports legislation that would make student test results a larger criteria in teacher evaluation. Top-down approach to imposing the new high-stakes Keystone Exams.</p>
<p>Transparency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports full transparency for all schools receiving tax dollars Supports a common, transparent application process for schools 	F	<p>As a candidate, Corbett vowed to provide 'an open, transparent, accountable and trustworthy government.' However, Corbett has regularly ignored open record requests, including those for the resumes of the budget and education secretaries.</p>
<p>Labor Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In favor of replacing the SRC with a locally elected school board Supports teachers' right to organize 	F	<p>Supports the ongoing existence of the School Reform Commission. Has made labor concessions a priority over teaching and learning; withheld crucial funds over a labor dispute. Supports using Act 46 to suspend teaching credentials.</p>
<p>Teaching and Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers and administrators should have control over their own curriculum Elementary students should be able to walk to school 	C	<p>Supported the adoption of Common Core standards in Pennsylvania. Has not made any explicit comments about children living within walking distance of school or social services being made available in school buildings, but his financial policies have hurt these goals.</p>

[Information about Corbett's funding policies](#)

Teacher Action Group Governor Candidate Report Card

Teacher Action Group is an all-volunteer organization that works to strengthen the influence of educators within schools and over policy decisions. This project was conceived of and implemented by full-time teachers from Philadelphia who wanted to know exactly how candidates would respond to the education crisis in Philadelphia

The table below compares the education platforms of candidates for the 2014 gubernatorial election. Results were drawn from surveys filled out by the candidates, as well as their published materials and speeches. (Current Governor Tom Corbett did not fill out the survey; his grades are based on his performance in office.)

	Tom Corbett (R)	John Hanger (D)	Rob McCord (D)	Katie McGinty (D)	Max Meyers (D)	Allyson Schwartz (D)	Tom Wolf (D)
Fair Funding - Reverse \$1 Billion in cuts - Implement Fair Funding Formula	F	A	B+	B-	B	B-	A
High Stakes Testing - Believes they are harmful to teaching and learning, create an unfair playing field for schools - Against them as a barometer for school success	D	A	C+	B-	A	B	A
Transparency - Supports full transparency for all schools receiving tax dollars - Supports a common, transparent application process for schools	F	A	A	A	B	A	B
Labor Relations - In favor of replacing the SRC with a locally elected school board - Supports teachers' right to organize	F	A	B	B-	A	A	A
Teaching and Learning - Teachers and administrators should have control over their own curriculum - Elementary students should be able to walk to school	C	B+	A	B-	A-	A	B+

For a more detailed explanation of each candidate's position, visit www.TAGPhilly.org to see an extended version of this report card.