



Jerry Brown's Education Plan

Full information available at: <http://www.jerrybrown.org/sites/default/files/Education%20Plan.pdf>

1. **Higher Education** – Convene a representative group to create a new state Master Plan. Reverse the decades' long trend of transferring state support from higher education to prisons. Introduction of online learning and the use of new technologies should be explored to the fullest, as well as extended Universityll programs. Focus on Community Colleges by keeping burdensome state regulations and mandates at a minimum. Transfer courses should be closely aligned with, and accepted by, the CSU and UC systems.
2. **Overhaul State testing program** – Reduce tests in scope and time. Provide more timely feedback. Supplement year-end tests with short assessments during the school year. Link tests to college preparation and career readiness.
3. **Change school funding formulas and consolidate most of the 62 existing categorical programs** – Implement a simple pupil weighted formula based on specific needs of the students in the school district. The number of categories should be reduced to less than 20. Create a flexible base amount grant to all districts that is related to what the state expects students to know and be able to do. Create a separate targeted amount to school districts based on identifiable needs. This new system would be phased in over time.
4. **Teacher Recruitment and Training** – Work with teacher training institutions and state agencies to recruit more teachers from the top third of our high school graduates. Teacher preparation should begin in the undergraduate years and then continue into postgraduate programs in order to provide more in-depth training. Have local school districts play a role in alternative teacher preparation by offering apprenticeships that combine university coursework with extensive classroom experience. It is important that we attract new teacher candidates who will enter teaching as a second career from other jobs. Provide outstanding teachers with ample time and compensation to mentor novice teachers and help improve their effectiveness. These mentor teaching opportunities will also provide career advancement for our best teachers and be a training ground for the next generation of principals and school leaders. Encourage teacher collaboration at school sites to improve instruction and student performance, using student assessments that encompass more than checking a box on a multiple choice exam. Create a system where the focus on evaluating and improving teacher performance in the classroom is the norm. For example, local school districts should consider on-site visitation programs aimed specifically at teacher performance. Principals are crucial to high performing schools and any reform effort must include programs to strengthen the recruitment, evaluation, and training of these key educational leaders. I will seek funding from public and private sources to enable teachers to become principals through a new leadership academy that focuses on developing principals who can be true academic leaders.
5. **Simplify Education Code and Return More Decision-Making to Local Districts** - Hold schools accountable for outcomes but not issue minute prescriptions from Sacramento on how to achieve those outcomes.
6. **More Balanced and Creative Curriculum** - Create local and state initiatives to increase school focus on science, history and the humanities--without reducing needed attention to math and



English. We also need to experiment with online and other instructional approaches that will use the available school time in more efficient ways.

7. **Place Special Emphasis on Teaching Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)** - Strengthen STEM teaching and increase the number of STEM graduates. Expand curriculum and teaching materials in STEM subjects, including online and virtual programs, enhanced teaching materials, partnerships with high tech companies and hands-on learning opportunities.
8. **Increase Proficiency in English** - The State Board of Education should adopt instructional materials that provide intensive intervention and support for English learners. These materials should include all levels of language proficiency. Use existing federal funds to expand after-school and summer school programs to supplement English Learning programs.
9. **Improve High School Graduation Rates** - Continue to focus on narrowing the achievement gap and reducing the State's drop-out rate, both of which disproportionately affect students from low income families.
10. **Charter Schools** – Close the bad ones and encourage the good ones. The flexibility and innovative programs that the charter schools make possible should also be made available to local schools and districts. True reform must include innovations that touch all students and school systems.
11. **Magnet or Theme Schools** - Local school districts should consider innovative types of schools, including theme schools and career education. Look at career-focused schools supported by local businesses and other institutions that prepare students more directly for employment in valuable industries such as high tech, engineering, health care or the building trades.
12. **Citizenship and Character** - Developing good character and the skills of citizenship must be an integral part of what is taught in our schools. Current school law or practices allow students to undermine classroom decorum and disrupt the learning process. Teachers must have effective means to maintain discipline in the classroom.