



Alan Khazei's Approach to BIG CITIZENSHIP:
A Blueprint for American Policy

Comprehensive Innovative Education Reform

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Paid for by Citizens for Alan Khazei
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Alan Khazei's Plan for Comprehensive Innovative Education Reform

As U.S. Senator, Alan Khazei will help lead a fight in the Senate and a movement across America to make a quality education the defining civil rights and jobs issue of the 21st century. Alan's goals are to close the achievement gap and provide every child and young person in our country with quality, affordable early learning, K-12 public education, and post-secondary education.

1. UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY, AFFORDABLE EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING:

- Create a \$10 billion, 10-year Early Learning Challenge Fund.
- Require 25% of all Child Care and Development Fund money to be used for early-morning and after-school care at high-quality Pre-K and Head Start settings.
- Invest in educator quality for early learning with \$1 billion over 5 years.

2. SUPPORT TEACHING PROFESSIONALS:

- Make teaching and educational leadership one of our most respected and revered professions.
- Fight for a quality teacher in every classroom and a quality leader in every school by doubling the federal investment in teacher and school leadership quality.
- Reward our most successful educators.
- Focusing investments on reform and results.

3. SUPPORT INNOVATION & INVEST IN WHAT WORKS AT SCALE:

- Double the federal charter school investment to support expansion of high-quality charter schools.
- Make similar investments over the next five years to expand other high-quality public schools.
- Expand the school day and year.
- Enact and fund the TIME Act.
- Modernize school buildings and create jobs while making schools vibrant centers of their community.
- Pass the SAFRA Act to generate \$4 billion this year for education reform.

4. REAUTHORIZE THE ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT TO REPLACE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND:

- Build on the strengths and fix the failures of NCLB by doubling federal funding for teacher and school leader quality.
- Invest in high-quality, useful assessments aligned to rigorous, common standards.
- Focus accountability on student improvement and not just proficiency targets.
- Turn around our lowest-performing schools.

5. MAKE A COLLEGE EDUCATION AFFORDABLE TO EVERY AMERICAN WHO WANTS ONE:

- Pay the full costs of college (up to \$10,000 per year) for each year of community or national service.
- Substantially increase Pell Grants and reduce interest on student loans.
- Substantially simplify the FAFSA forms and invest in community colleges.

Guiding Principles

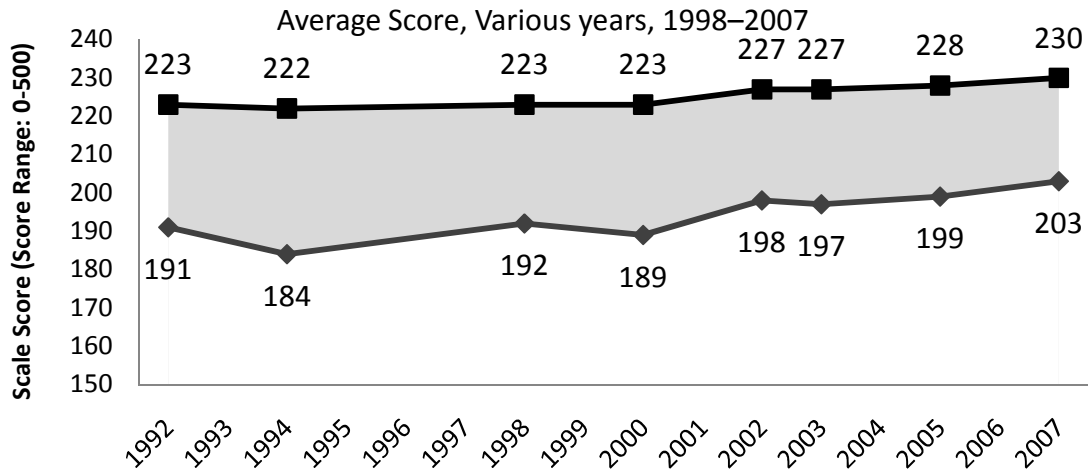
- We need to make public education the civil rights issue of the 21st century.
- Every American should have access to a high-quality, public education from preschool to graduate school, regardless of how much money their parents make or the zip code they live in.
- The most important in-school variable in improving student achievement is the quality of his or her teacher and principal. We must ensure, for every child, access to a world-class education by making sure that every classroom and school are led by a great teacher and an effective principal.
- It is time to stop focusing on ideology and start focusing on results: those programs generating success for students should be expanded, and the programs that continue to receive federal money without results should be discontinued.
- Education is not only the key to making sure all Americans have a fair shot at the American dream. It is indispensable to reviving our economy, protecting our national security, and ensuring that our young people can compete with students across the world.

Key Facts

- Only 70 percent of America's high school students graduate. Of those who do graduate, more than 40 percent are unable to attend college or earn more than the minimum wage. A recent study by Northeastern University's Center for Labor Market Studies reported that the collective cost to the nation of each dropout is \$292,000 due to lost tax revenues and the cost of government services. In addition, in 2008, 54% of dropouts ages 16-24 were unemployed, compared with a rate of 32% for those with a high school degree and 13% with a college degree.
- Profound achievement gaps remain between the wealthy and the poor, white students and students of color, and high-performing and low-performing public schools.
- Academic failure continues to cripple our economy: a recent McKinsey Study estimated the U.S. could add \$2.3 trillion to its economic output by boosting educational achievement.
- The fastest growing fields of employment typically require at least one year of post-secondary education and/or training.

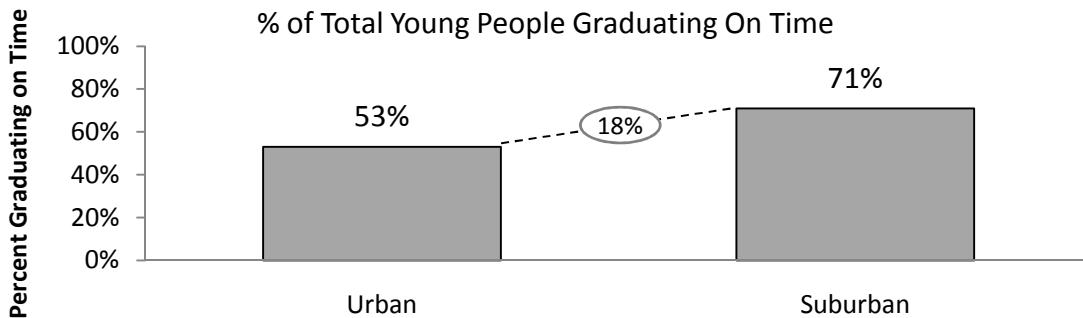
The Challenges Facing American Education

National Gap in Average Reading Scores Between Black and White Public School Students at Grade 4



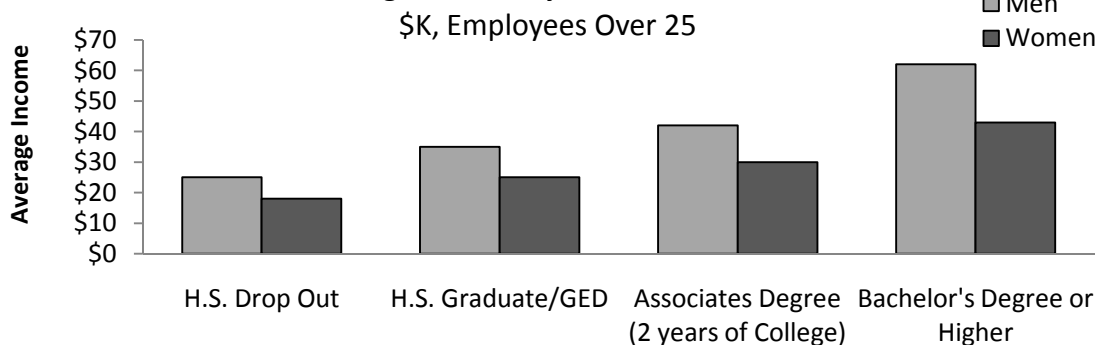
Source: Department of Education

H.S. Graduation Rates



Source: *Cities in Crisis 2009: Closing the Graduation Gap*, Americas Promise Alliance

2004 Average Income by Education and Gender



Source: National Center for Educational Statistics (2004)

Alan Khazei's Education Plan for America

Alan believes that providing every child with a world-class education is the only way to build a strong democracy, a fair society, and a competitive economy. As Senator, Alan will fight to make sure that every American has access to affordable, high-quality education from preschool through post-secondary education and training.

1. We must ensure that every American family has access to quality, affordable, early childhood education.

A good education begins early: research makes clear that the first five years of a child's life make up the most significant period for brain development. Alan will fight to ensure that every child is ready to start school successfully by age five through quality, affordable early childhood education - including investments in the Head Start program, as well as federal investments, to ensure that every state has a coordinated, quality approach for children from birth to five years old.

Alan commends the \$4 billion invested in early education and child care efforts earlier this year in President Obama's stimulus package. These funds will provide critical resources to proven and existing programs, such as Head Start, which currently serves approximately 900,000 preschool children.

Alan will recommend amending the act to require that 25% of all Child Care and Development Fund money be used for early morning and after school care at high quality Pre-K and Head Start settings. Also known as "wrap around care," this would enable the parents and caregivers of over 330,000 low-income preschoolers at high quality Pre-K and Head Start programs nationwide to be able to drop their children off at school before work and pick them up on the way home. This change is needed because today the federal government spends over \$5 billion on the Child Care and Development Fund, but the funding level is so low these child care subsidy programs rarely reach the high quality threshold needed for life-long impact. At the same time, there has been rapid growth in high-quality state-based Pre-K and, more recently, the federal Head Start program, but these programs offer extremely limited hours that often prohibit working parents from participating.

Alan also supports the proposed Early Learning Challenge Fund included in a larger higher education bill expected to enter the Senate floor this year. This grant, if passed, would provide \$5 billion over the next five years for early learning. Alan is also proposing an additional \$1 billion over five years to attract, develop, retain and support preschool and early learning educators.

At City Year, Alan saw firsthand the impact our corps members could have on the lives and education of young children. Alan will work to include a robust Human Capital agenda to early

childhood education, to bring a new generation of well trained, caring and committed educators to the field of early childhood education.

2. We must make teaching and educational leadership one of our most respected and revered professions and treat, pay and reward our teachers and school leaders as the professionals they are.

The best way to ensure better student achievement is to make sure America recruits, retains and supports the best teachers and school leaders. Alan will work to ensure that there is a quality teacher in every classroom and a quality leader in every school. The research is clear: together, the quality of teachers and principals explains the majority of the difference between the schools making the most progress compared to those falling behind.

To make education one of the most respected professions in the country, Alan will:

- Double the federal investment in teacher and school leadership quality. He will channel most of these funds to states and school systems focused on using innovative approaches to driving success for all teachers and school leaders by overhauling the way they recruit, select, train, evaluate, reward, manage, and, when necessary, counsel out or dismiss teachers and school leaders. This would mean an increase for the federal Title II program from \$3 billion to \$6 billion within 5 years and focusing most of that \$6 billion on competitive grants to states and school systems that commit to these reforms and include student achievement as a criterion in rewarding and evaluating educators.

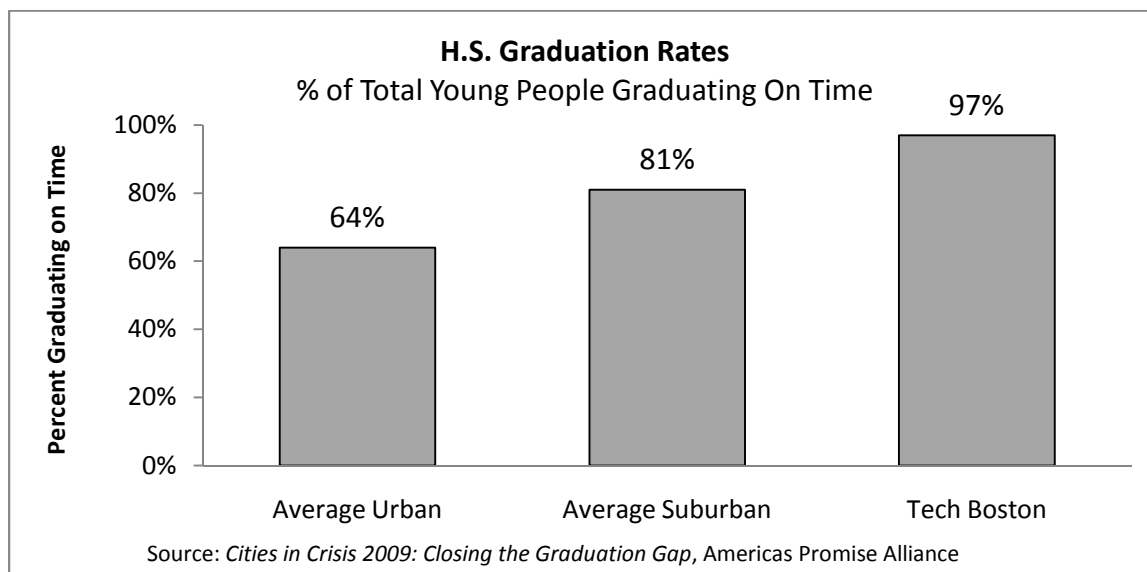
This initiative will be crucial in recruiting the next generation of highly qualified teachers and leaders, retaining and rewarding these educators, and providing additional incentives to make sure our most talented educators are also available to our students in most critical need. This will include targeting the recruitment of teachers in shortage areas like special education and English Language Learning, while also rewarding high-performing teachers, leaders, and schools in effective and fair ways, based in part on improvements in student learning. We don't pay our educators like the professionals they are: the average American teacher earns less than \$52,000 per year. Alan supports raising teacher salaries, especially for high-need areas and school systems willing to embrace these reforms.

- Make it possible for outstanding future teachers who commit to teach and serve in a high-need subject or school for at least four years to receive up to \$40,000 in tuition, fees, and other costs for four years of undergraduate preparation or up to two years of graduate-level preparation. For teachers in high-quality alternative programs like Teach for America, corps members committing to at least two years would get half of that amount covered to support their post-graduate training and support.

3. We must support innovation and invest to scale what works.

As someone who successfully built one of the country's largest service organizations, Alan knows how important it is to support the innovation that will bring new ideas to our schools.

He understands that we not only need to support innovation, but also closely monitor and evaluate new programs to make sure that we are expanding the programs that work and reforming or closing the ones that don't. Examples of the innovative reforms Alan will support include the following:



- Doubling the federal charter school investment to support expansion of high-quality charter schools while investing similar additional investments over the next five years to expand high-quality public schools and support bold interventions in low-achieving schools. In each of these initiatives, states and school systems would be required to hold accountable charter and other public schools consistently failing to reach expectations.
- Expanding the School Day and Year. A child's learning extends beyond the classroom, and so should their education. With Alan's leadership, City Year Boston pioneered out-of-school partnerships among public schools, local businesses, nonprofits, and government agencies to provide students with constructive, engaging opportunities after the school day. And Citizen Schools, started right here in Boston, has shown the incredible impact that after school apprenticeship programs led by volunteer adults can have on a middle school student's performance.

As Senator, Alan will continue this work and will champion enacting and funding landmark legislation introduced by Senator Kennedy earlier this year – the TIME (Time for Innovation Matters in Education) Act of 2009 – that will enable low-performing, high-poverty schools to implement a longer school day or year.

Alan will also be an advocate for schools that engage citizens and local communities to offer students the social, emotional, and physical support they need to excel in the classroom. Alan knows that together, we can re-envision schools as centers of the community where adults from the neighborhood mentor and serve as role models for students; where elected officials teach

civics and local businesses offer technology classes for students and parents; and where community agencies and volunteers provide accessible health services.

4. We must replace the No Child Left Behind Act with a reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act that builds on its strengths and fixes its failures.

Alan believes that the goals of NCLB were right – the expectation that every child should achieve a quality education regardless of their race and income, holding school systems and schools accountable for closing achievement gaps, and making sure we gather and use data to verify that we are accomplishing this goal. But NCLB failed by leaving behind the effective funding and supports needed to make this vision a reality and didn't focus on supporting those who make the biggest in-school impact on student achievement – our teachers and principals.

As Senator, Alan will push to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act with the following significant improvements:

- Alan will make the largest increase ever in supporting quality teaching and leadership in our schools, as described above, and reward those teachers, principals, and schools getting the best results while leveraging them to help others learn from their successes.
- Alan supports the efforts – led by 46 states and the educators within them – to develop high-quality, voluntary common standards. These fewer, clearer, higher standards will support all teachers in accomplishing their goals. Alan is proposing federal investments to support high quality assessments aligned to state common standards and designed to make sure students are evaluated by assessments that actually measure 21st century skills like critical thinking, problem solving and applied writing. This funding would not only ensure higher quality assessments but also free up state funding currently used on testing for actual investments in supporting students and teachers meeting the high standards being set.
- A reauthorized ESEA will have to focus on student growth at all levels of achievement and focus on student improvement, rather than looking at only the percentage that achieves a proficient score on the tests.
- In addition, ESEA must make a concerted effort to support President Obama's call to fund states and districts that take bold steps toward finally turning around their lowest-performing schools – not by simply investing more in those programs and policies consistently failing their students, but by adopting urgent changes, such as bringing in new turnaround leaders, leadership teams and teachers equipped with the autonomy, knowledge and resources to transform the culture of low performing schools.

5. We must make a college education affordable and accessible to every single Massachusetts and American child who wants one.

In the 21st century, having a world-class K-12 education is simply not enough. To meet the demands of a global economy, our country needs all citizens to continue their education after high school.

The doors to higher education cannot be continuously closed to young people without the financial means to pay the runaway costs of college tuition.

Alan will fight to make college more affordable and accessible by increasing Pell Grants, reducing interest on student loans, and substantially simplifying the FAFSA forms. He will work to ensure that the funds dedicated to support the American Graduation Initiative help modernize our school and community college buildings, incentivize innovation and better completion rates in our community colleges and raise graduation rates in our high schools. He will connect our community colleges and students with our employers to ensure skilled workers are ready to enter our highest-growth industries.

Alan played a strong leadership role in building the national service movement and the Americorps program, and his work has yielded real benefits for aspiring college students. Thanks to the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, the Eli Segal post-service education award was raised for the first time in 15 years from \$4,725 to \$5,350. As Senator, Alan would push to increase the Americorps post-service award to \$10,000 and make it tax free, as Congressman John Lewis has proposed. At this level, any American who is willing to serve for four years would receive educational benefits equivalent to the cost of tuition, books and fees at public universities. Attaining a college education would become possible to anyone who is willing to serve our country.

Alan is also strongly supportive of the new GI bill, which finally raises the amount veterans receive for textbooks and tuition to reflect the rising costs of a university education.

Paying for these investments in America's future

One immediate opportunity to help fund these initiatives is to pass the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA) of 2009. This bill, which has been passed in the House and is now sitting in the Senate, will originate all new federal student loans through the Direct Loan program starting in 2010, instead of through lenders subsidized by taxpayers in the federally-guaranteed student loan program. Unlike the lender-based program, the Direct Loan program is entirely insulated from market swings and can therefore guarantee students access to affordable college loans, at the same low interest rates, terms and conditions, no matter what happens in the economy.

This change will generate almost \$90 billion in savings over the next ten years that will be used to boost Pell Grant scholarships, keep interest rates on federal loans affordable, create a more reliable and effective financial aid system for families, and enact needed education reform.

Alan is asking all of his supporters and all who support education reform across the country to call, write and email their Senators to ask them to pass the SAFRA act this fall.

The remaining improvements outlined in this plan can easily be funded by cutting corporate welfare, ending tax incentives to send jobs overseas and reforming the corporate tax system. Alan will also call for dedicating some of the proceeds from the estate tax to fund education excellence for all of America's children and youth.

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