

CHAMPION for Public Schools COMMITMENT

New York State has abandoned its constitutional obligation to provide all of our children with the education they deserve. In fact, our state has one of the worst records in the country when it comes to educational inequality. Without investing in public schools, the opportunity gap between wealthy and poor school districts will continue to grow wider.

We Can't Wait! Invest in Public Schools, Don't Abandon Them!

Great public schools are a foundation of the American promise of freedom and opportunity to create a better life for ourselves and our children. Every child in New York deserves a high quality education regardless of whether they live in a rural, urban or suburban community, upstate or downstate, regardless of their family income level, race, ethnicity or native language. Every child must have full access to: Quality full-day Pre-Kindergarten and kindergarten; teachers who receive the mentoring and support to excel; a stimulating and diverse curriculum; small class sizes; and the academic and social and emotional supports they need to succeed. The state must provide fair and adequate funding for local public schools in order to educate every child and protect local taxpayers from being overburdened by property taxes.

 **I am a Champion for Public Schools.** As a member of the New York State Legislature, I commit I will fight to:

- 1. Fulfill our constitutional obligation under the Campaign for Fiscal Equity** by fully funding foundation aid and eliminating the Gap Elimination Adjustment through a four-year phase-in beginning in 2015. To fulfill this commitment I will support at least \$1.9 billion in new school aid in 2015 and demand that high need school districts in all regions of the state receive greater prioritization for funding than in the past.
- 2. Put public school students first** by opposing policies that favor privately run charter schools at the expense of traditional public schools.
- 3. Put the focus on teaching and learning, not testing**, by limiting the amount of time students spend taking tests and reducing or eliminating the high-stakes consequences linked to these tests.
- 4. Make sure parents, students and teachers voices are respected and engaged in our public schools.**

SIGNATURE _____ **PRINT**

NAME _____

**Representatives & Candidates who sign this commitment will be featured as
Champions for Public Schools on AQE's website: WWW.AQENY.ORG**

**This is a joint project of Alliance for Quality Education (AQE), Citizen Action of New York,
Make the Road New York (MRNY) and New York Communities for Change (NYCC)**

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