



The Education Trust–West
2018 Candidate Questionnaire
Office: Governor
Candidate: John Cox

- 1) While California collects a substantial amount of education data, gaps in both collection and reporting hinder our ability to know how well students are learning and progressing through school, from kindergarten to college. Currently, we have no way to see where students from California high schools attend college and how successful they are, and it's difficult to have a full picture of how well our educational systems are serving low-income students and students of color. As a technology powerhouse state, it is unacceptable that we do not know how many of our high school graduates progress to and through higher education — something 45 other states can already do. If elected Governor, would you support a longitudinal data system, and if so, what specific steps would you take in your first year in office to put such a system in place?

Candidate did not provide responses by the deadline.

- 2) Applying for financial aid is a critical step for students who want to attend a postsecondary institution. California currently ranks 30th in the country for FAFSA completion among high school seniors, and many of those who did not complete a financial aid application were either low-income students or students of color. Louisiana has taken steps in recent years to improve completion numbers and now leads the nation in financial aid application completion. If elected, what actions would you undertake to make sure more students get information about and complete the FAFSA or California Dream Act Application?

Candidate did not provide responses by the deadline.

- 3) California is struggling to attract and retain teachers, especially teachers in STEM fields and those who reflect the demographics of our students. While the vast majority of California's students are from communities of color, 63% of teachers are white. Teacher diversity matters for a multitude of reasons. If elected, what concrete steps would you take to diversity the teacher pipeline and incentivize teacher retention, especially among teachers in STEM fields and teachers of color?

Candidate did not provide responses by the deadline.

- 4) Five years into the Local Control Funding Formula, school districts are benefiting from more equitable and flexible funding. However, many local stakeholders struggle to understand how the money is being spent to benefit schools and students. If elected Governor, what steps would you take to make K-12 education spending more transparent?

Candidate did not provide responses by the deadline.

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- 5) Although California has invested more money in its K-12 schools, California still ranks 41st nationally when it comes to per-pupil spending. In addition, many districts are seeing their expenses rise faster than revenues. If elected Governor, what steps would you take to improve education funding and ease the burden on cash-strapped school districts?**

Candidate did not provide responses by the deadline.