



JOE COTTA

Passion for Liberty

One reason I am running for state representative is that I watched the despair that parents endured on behalf of their children the last couple of years. It has been a real struggle to find or create a responsible educational environment for our kids.

We've endured poor civics, woke history, the teachers union pushing divisive BLM and other critical race theory agendas, low school standards and performance, inappropriate subjects being taught, but the learning environment under the health mandates was very difficult for our kids to endure. Many families with special needs children suffered the most. There was a short window to teach life skills at a critical age, but now that window is closed. I am a father of 5 kids (special needs included).

Since the McCleary decision, and an additional 20% increase in educational funding in 2019-2021, ample funding for education was established. However, federal standard test scores have not improved, and other measurements for student learning have been weakened. [Report Card - Washington State Report Card \(ospi.k12.wa.us\)](https://ospi.k12.wa.us) The money is consumed by bureaucratic and political systems that downgrade the goal of student learning. There are no accountability systems in place to replace failed administrators. We need structural changes that increases public education choices for parents, and teachers need to be held to a professional standard.

Charter schools provide more teaching days and are producing better results with more kids likely to graduate and attend college. However, our state government has capped the number of schools allowed in the state at 40 and receive limited funding. We need to repeal the limit on the number of public charter schools and

allow the same funding to charter schools that public schools have (access to local levy funds and capital funding).

We need to give parents school choice options by using tax dollars for public or private schools, which best serves their child's needs. You would choose your child's school with funding from your own tax dollars. Family choice programs are utilized in 30 states, already. Washington needs to step up. Family choice programs will create accountability for our public school systems, which have also improved in the states where family choice programs have been established.

I support direct aid for school choice and specialized services for special needs and foster care children through educational savings accounts. The amount allocated to you should be what you already pay into the school system, with the average child receiving a minimum of \$15,000 into an educational savings account. You would utilize the school and services of your choice. 18 states currently have programs like this. I also would support school choice scholarship funded through a tax credit. I am done with the mediocre IEP evaluations, vague goal objectives, and dismissal.

We should allow public schools to recruit talent without requiring teaching certificates, just like private schools. Increased teaching quality is more effective than lowering class size. The opportunity for recruitment will open the gate to more qualified teachers.

We must ban inappropriate sex education, critical theory, and fight for curriculum transparency, teaching of our Constitution, and refocusing on civics.

Lastly, and it sounds odd to have to say this, get back to reading, writing, math, science, kindness, and leadership.

School board endorsements:

Semi Bird – Richland School District

Audra Byrd - Richland School District

Gabe Galbraith - Kennewick School Board

With your vote, we can bring liberty to our education system and give our kids amazing opportunity.

Thank you,

Joe Cotta

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voteJoeCotta.com



*Joe & supporters enjoying the Benton-Franklin
Fair Parade*