



Questions To Ask Candidates

- **What do you see as the most pressing concern facing children in America today? How do you propose to address this important concern?**
- 16.4 million American children—one in five—live in poverty, and the U.S. ranks worst in relative poverty among industrialized nations in the world. **Why do you think the child poverty rate is so high and what will you do to address this growing problem?**
- The annual average number of unemployed teens and young adults (ages 16 to 29) in America more than doubled in the last 10 years, rising to 5.9 million, and this same age group also saw sharp increases in rates of underemployment. **What do you believe are the most effective actions we can take to increase employment opportunities for these young people?**
- The Child Tax Credit, the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program are three programs that are among the most effective in keeping children in working families out of poverty and stemming the negative impact of the recession on children. **What steps will you take to help more children and families benefit from these three critical federal supports for poor children and families?**
- Almost eight million children are uninsured in America. **What are you going to do to ensure that every child receives health insurance?**
- Only three percent of eligible infants and toddlers are enrolled in Early Head Start and thousands of children are on waiting lists for child care programs across the country. **How will you help to increase the number of eligible children who can benefit from Early Head Start and other quality early childhood education programs?**
- More than 60 percent of all public school students and 75 percent or more of Black and Latino students in fourth, eighth and twelfth grades in America cannot read or do math at grade level. **What steps will you take to close the education achievement gaps and help all children achieve?**
- Forty-five states and D.C. are in the process of implementing the Common Core State Standards, which set the requirements for students moving from grade to grade. The expectation of mastery for kindergarteners remains the same among all states, but the number of instructional hours provided varies widely. Some states provide 2.5 hours of kindergarten a day, while some provide six hours. Without Full-Day K, too many children will not be able to meet these new high expectations and the achievement gap will widen. **What steps will you take to promote the adoption of required Full-Day Kindergarten?**

- Among children born in 2001, one of every three Black boys, one of every six Hispanic boys, and one out of every 17 White boys will be imprisoned in their lifetime. **How do you propose we break down this Cradle to Prison Pipeline and our current culture of mass incarceration? What is your position on the privatization of American prisons?**
- 5,740 children and teens were killed by guns in 2008 and 2009. **What kind of legislative measures do you believe are necessary to change the epidemic of gun violence among our young people today?**
- In the last two years, at least 17 states have introduced laws that make it more difficult to vote, creating barriers for people of color, seniors, the disabled, and the poor, especially. **What is your position on new voter ID laws and other efforts to make voting more difficult?**
- Attacks on newcomers to our nation, such as the anti-immigrant laws in Arizona and Alabama and copycats across the country, tear apart families and codify racial profiling as legitimate law enforcement policy. In the first six months of 2011 alone, more than 46,000 mothers and fathers of U.S. citizen children were deported. **Are these anti-immigration laws reflective of the kind of America you believe in?**