**CONSUMER REPORT CARD on Quality Education**

**Summary of Positions: Education**

**CHARLIE CRIST**

Crist wants to put Florida in top 10% globally in reading, math, science, and technology by 2020. Crist says Florida will lag behind other states until teacher quality, legislative support, and parental involvement are increased.

**RICK SCOTT**

While on the campaign trail, Scott promotes budget increases and legislative proposals to raise per-pupil spending. Scott wants all Floridians to have opportunity for “great education” and “their shot at the American Dream.”

**Proposals for the Future: Education**

**CHARLIE CRIST**

\*Supports “Common Core” national standards in math and English language arts as long

as they work for Florida students.

\*Supports testing to measure learning, but not at expense of traditional classroom teaching.

\*Will restore Scott’s $1.3 billion in education cuts; will increase spending to $7,405.79 per

pupil.

\*Advocates increasing teacher pay so “teachers get paid what they’re worth.”

\*Will ensure that corporations get tax incentives for investing in public schools, not just

private schools.

\*Will increase training options and offer tuition loan forgiveness for high school grads who

want to study to work in vocational trades.

\*Will expand education for jobs in technology: Push for college loan forgiveness, reduce

college costs for students in science, medicine, engineering, and technology.

\*Proposes allowing students to earn foreign language credits for computer programming,

coding.

**RICK SCOTT**

\*Backed off previous support for national “Common Core” standards; says should be state

decision, not federal.

\*Proposes to increase per-pupil spending to $7,176; current funding falls below per-pupil

spending levels in 2007.

\*Touts $18.9 billion K-12 budget he signed as largest in state history; is largest in total

dollars spent, but not per pupil and not after adjusted for inflation.

\*Urges state universities to refocus on graduating more students in math, science,

engineering, and technology for high-tech jobs.

\*Proposal that he calls “historic” continues to reduce funding for Bright Future

scholarships by half.

\*Introduces idea of “parent trigger” law that would allow parents in a school district to vote to

have a private charter school company take over a public school.

**Track Records as Governor: Education**

**CHARLIE CRIST**

\*Vetoed legislation that would enact merit pay system for teachers based on student test

scores, so that teacher pay would not be impacted by performance of children not in their

classrooms or subject areas.

\*Accepted federal stimulus money that saved thousands of teacher jobs during recession.

\*Signed “tuition differential law” allowing *all* state universities to increase tuition rates up

to 15% annually to maintain academic quality if Legislature cuts funding. This tuition

differential provision added $72 million to student financial aid in subsequent years.

\*Signed laws to strengthen financing for school voucher programs that let parents choose

best schools for their children. However, he now believes that “vouchers don’t make sense for

anyone, anywhere” and says Florida must refocus on public education.

**RICK SCOTT**

\*Right after taking office, first budget proposed $3.3 billion cut in K-12 education.

Ultimately, cuts were $1.3 billion because Legislature forced Governor Scott to cut less.

\*Signed into law bill that Crist had vetoed tying teacher merit pay directly to student test

scores.

\*Signed legislation to restrict new teachers to one-year contract and to strip experienced

teachers of long-term contracts.

\*Consistently cut Bright Futures scholarships funded by Florida Lottery.

\*Publicly supported charter schools and tax breaks for corporate contributors; signed off

on funding for capital improvements at charter schools while vetoing construction, repairs

at public schools.

\*Supported 2014 repeal of “tuition differential law” that Crist signed, reducing limit on

tuition to 6% annually and extending only to University of Florida and Florida State.

**Sources**

Charlie Crist for Governor 2014 campaign website \* *Crowley Political Report* \* FactCheck.org \* Florida Department of Education \* *Miami Herald* \* PolitiFact.com \* *Politico* \* Project Vote Smart \* Rick Scott for Florida campaign website \* State Impact (National Public Radio) \* *Sun Sentinel* \* *Tampa Bay Times*

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