

2016 Presidential Candidates’ Statements Regarding NASP Policy Priorities

The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) is a non-partisan professional association and does not endorse any specific candidate or political party. Rather, NASP advocates for public policies that align with our vision that "all children and youth thrive in school, at home, and throughout life." We offer school psychologists evidence based information, tools, and resources to support their work with children, youth, and families.

The purpose of this document is to convey NASP priorities and how they compare with the major presidential candidates’ federal policy priorities on related educational and child/family issues. As provided in the past, information included in this document is taken from NASP Position Statements and other formal policy papers, candidates’ official campaign documents, major party platform documents, and policy statements made at official campaign events or media interviews. The full citation, links to the complete document (when available), and other information are included at the end of this document.

NASP believes in the importance of participation in the democratic process and strongly encourages members to educate themselves on the issues in order to make an informed choice when voting. Although this guide contains information specific to the 2016 Presidential Election, readers are also strongly encouraged to become informed about the views of candidates running for other federal, state, and local offices.

Policy Issue: School Climate and Safety

NASP Position and Policy Priorities	Hillary Clinton (D) Policy Priorities	Donald Trump (R) Policy Priorities	Gary Johnston (Libertarian) Policy Priorities	Jill Stein (Green) Policy Priorities
<p>NASP Promotes policies that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance physical and psychological safety Restrict the presence of guns in schools to only commissioned school resource officers • Promote a positive, respectful, and supportive environment for all students • Integrate school climate, effective discipline, social-emotional learning, positive behavior, mental health, and academics through a multitiered system of supports (MTSS) 	<p>Hillary Clinton believes “parents, teachers and schools should have the right to keep guns out of classrooms.”ⁱ</p> <p>Hillary Clinton has proposed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide \$2 billion to school districts to improve school climate and reform school discipline practicesⁱⁱ • Incentivize school districts to hire School Climate Support Teams in districts and schools with high suspension and in-school arrest rates.ⁱⁱⁱ • Help districts hire specialized 	<p>Donald Trump believes arming teachers will help improve school safety. He supported “school resource officers” and trained teachers carrying guns in schools.^v Further, he opposes Gun Free School Zones.^{vi}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes school choice as an option to help improve school safety. "We will rescue kids from failing schools by helping their parents send them to a safe school of their choice."^{vii} <p>Donald Trump has proposed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I will get rid of gun-free zones 	<p>No Information Available</p>	<p>Jill Stein has proposed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use restorative justice to address conflicts before they occur.^{ix}

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish comprehensive school crisis response plans • Support the comprehensive role of school psychologists 	<p>support professionals. Specialized support staff—including guidance counselors, social workers, and school psychologists—are an important resource for our students and our teachers. With the help of these professionals, teachers can better connect students with the social and academic resources they need to be successful. And specialized support staff can provide training to teachers and other school staff to help them foster a safer and more supportive learning environment.^{iv}</p>	<p>on schools, and — you have to — and on military bases...My first day, it gets signed, okay? My first day. There's no more gun-free zones."^{viii}</p>		
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Policy Issue: Comprehensive Mental and Behavioral Health

NASP Position and Policy Priorities	Clinton	Trump	Gary Johnson	Jill Stein
<p>NASP Promotes policies that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase federal, state, local, and private funding to support students’ mental and behavioral health; • Promote culturally responsive comprehensive school based mental and behavioral health services including universal screening, prevention, early intervention, and targeted 	<p>Hillary Clinton has proposed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Scale up efforts to help pediatric practices and schools support children facing behavioral problems. Hillary believes we must redouble our efforts around early screening and intervention... to identify mental health problems at an early age and recommend appropriate support.^x 	<p>“We need to reform our mental health programs and institutions in this country. Families, without the ability to get the information needed to help those who are ailing, are too often not given the tools to help their loved ones. There are promising reforms being developed in Congress that should receive bi-partisan support.”^{xiii}</p>	<p>No information available.</p>	<p>Stein noted America’s mental health problems are woefully neglected, and in urgent need of supportive attention. But she cautioned against scapegoating mental illness as a major factor in gun violence Other factors -- such as substance abuse, poverty, history of violence, and access to guns -- are much stronger predictors of</p>

<p>supports;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support mental health first aid and other professional development for relevant educators and families • Promote comprehensive suicide prevention programs • Reduce shortages in school psychology • Advance the role of school psychologists as school mental and behavioral health providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a national initiative around suicide prevention across the lifespan that is headed by the Surgeon General. Direct all relevant federal agencies, including... the Department of Education, to research and develop plans for suicide prevention in their respective settings.”^{xi} • Encourage evidence-based suicide prevention and mental health programs in high schools. The Model School District Policy on Suicide Prevention, released by four leading mental health organizations**, includes concrete recommendations that school districts can follow. Hillary will direct the Department of Education to emphasize mental health literacy in middle and high schools and will work with regional and national PTA, school counselor associations, and associations of secondary school principals to encourage school districts to adopt this model policy.^{xii} <p>**NASP co-authored this document.</p>	<p>“ Unfortunately, law enforcement will have to continue to play a role in how we proceed as a nation with mental health reform. I will work with Congress to see that mental health reform is a top priority in my administration. As we move toward solving these problems, perhaps law enforcement’s role can be diminished and community services and family involvement might be fundamental to fixing a very broke system.”^{xiv}</p>		<p>violence and shootings. Individuals with mental health problems are more likely to be victims of violence rather than perpetrators.^{xv}</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch a nationwide strategy to address the shortage of mental 			

	<p>health providers. Hillary will launch a national strategy to bolster our mental health workforce... this initiative will aim to: recruit more persons into the mental health fields; expand resources for mental health training... expand culturally competent care.^{xvi}</p>			
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Policy Issue: Discipline and Ending the School to Prison Pipeline

NASP Position and Policy Priorities	Clinton	Trump	Gary Johnson	Jill Stein
<p>NASP promotes policies that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce overly punitive and ineffective zero tolerance policies • Encourage effective, positive discipline practices and policy • Advance restorative justice practices 	<p>Hillary Clinton has proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing \$2 billion in support to schools to reform overly punitive disciplinary policies, calling on states to reform school disturbance laws, and encouraging states to use federal education funding to implement social and emotional support interventions^{xvii}. • Make school climate and non-discriminatory discipline priorities in enforcing the Every Student Succeeds Act. The ESSA requires states to develop plans to reduce the use of exclusionary disciplinary policies and report rates of suspensions, expulsions, 	<p>No information available</p>	<p>No information available</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use restorative justice to address conflicts before they occur, and involve students in the process.^{xix}

	<p>school-related arrests, and referrals to law enforcement. Clinton believes these measures are critical to ending the school-to-prison pipeline—and that they should be vigorously enforced.^{xviii}</p>			
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Policy Issue: Federal Investment in Education

NASP Position and Policy Priorities	Clinton	Trump	Gary Johnson	Jill Stein
<p>NASP supports policies that increase federal, state, local, and private funding to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase access to comprehensive school psychological services for all students, regardless of where they live; • Prevent bullying, harassment, and discrimination in our nation’s schools; • Promote resource equity (financial and human) for all schools and students; • Reduce shortages in school psychology and the mental and behavioral health workforce; • Ensure all children and youth thrive at home, in school, and throughout life 	<p>Congress must fully fund the Every Student Succeeds Act^{xx}</p> <p>“We've got to invest more in good teaching. Yes, we need accountability measures, but let's connect them to what the teachers are facing. When you are a teacher in a poor school, and you have enormous behavioral problems, when you have kids coming to school hungry, when you have kids who are homeless, you have a tougher job than the kids who show up in Chappaqua where I live.”^{xxi}</p>	<p>Pledged to drastically cut, or eliminate the Department of Education.</p> <p>“We're going to be cutting tremendous amounts of money and waste and fraud and abuse. But, no, I'm not cutting services, but I am cutting spending. But I may cut Department of Education-- Common Core is a very bad thing. I think that it should be local education.”^{xxii}</p>	<p>Vows to eliminate the Federal Department of Education^{xxiii}</p> <p>Johnson also proposed more competition between schools, writing, "I believe that we should treat K-12 education more like higher education. The reason higher education in the US is the best in the world is because these institutions compete with each other for tuition dollars. We need that same competition in public education^{xxiv}</p>	<p>Jill Stein believes we need to end privatization of our public schools^{xxv} and increase federal funding of public schools to equalize public school funding.^{xxvi}</p>

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- ⁱ [ABC News, "Hillary Clinton Fires Back at Donald Trump for NRA Remarks," May 21, 2016](#)
- ⁱⁱ Breaking Every Barrier Agenda, <https://www.hillaryclinton.com/briefing/factsheets/2016/02/18/ending-the-school-to-prison-pipeline/>
- ⁱⁱⁱ Breaking Every Barrier Agenda, <https://www.hillaryclinton.com/briefing/factsheets/2016/02/18/ending-the-school-to-prison-pipeline/>
- ^{iv} Breaking Every Barrier Agenda, <https://www.hillaryclinton.com/briefing/factsheets/2016/02/18/ending-the-school-to-prison-pipeline/>
- ^v Time, Donald Trump Clarifies Position on Guns in Schools, March 23, 2016. <http://www.cnn.com/2016/05/23/politics/donald-trump-guns/>
- ^{vi} Washington Post, Donald Trump: "I will get rid of gun free zones on schools." January 8, 2016. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2016/01/08/donald-trump-i-will-get-rid-of-gun-free-zones-on-schools/>
- ^{vii} Donald Trump addresses the Republican National Convention, July 21, 2016. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNQZHjy6vbl>
- ^{viii} Donald Trump campaign rally. Burlington, Vermont. January 2016. <http://wapo.st/1RwJlcV>
- ^{ix} Jill Stein 2016 Platform. <http://www.jill2016.com/platform>
- ^x Hillary Clinton's Comprehensive Agenda on Mental Health <https://www.hillaryclinton.com/briefing/factsheets/2016/08/29/hillary-clintons-comprehensive-agenda-on-mental-health/>
- ^{xi} Hillary Clinton's Comprehensive Agenda on Mental <https://www.hillaryclinton.com/briefing/factsheets/2016/08/29/hillary-clintons-comprehensive-agenda-on-mental-health/>
- ^{xii} Hillary Clinton's Comprehensive Agenda on Mental Health <https://www.hillaryclinton.com/briefing/factsheets/2016/08/29/hillary-clintons-comprehensive-agenda-on-mental-health/>
- ^{xiii} <https://www.donaldjtrump.com/positions/healthcare-reform>
- ^{xiv} <http://undark.org/2016/08/31/clinton-trump-mental-health-police/>
- ^{xv} http://www.jill2016.com/dr_stein_says_gun_violence_needs_to_be_treated_as_national_public_health_emergency
- ^{xvi} Hillary Clinton's Comprehensive Agenda on Mental <https://www.hillaryclinton.com/briefing/factsheets/2016/08/29/hillary-clintons-comprehensive-agenda-on-mental-health/>
- ^{xvii} <https://www.hillaryclinton.com/issues/k-12-education/>
- ^{xviii} Breaking Every Barrier Agenda, <https://www.hillaryclinton.com/briefing/factsheets/2016/02/18/ending-the-school-to-prison-pipeline/>
- ^{xix} <http://www.jill2016.com/platform>
- ^{xx} *Ed Week*, Compare the Candidates: Where do Clinton and Trump stand on Education, July 2016. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/section/multimedia/president-candidates-trump-clinton-education.html>
- ^{xxi} <http://www.newsday.com/opinion/hillary-clinton-at-newsday-long-island-transcript-1.11680010> April, 2016
- ^{xxii} Fox News Sunday Coverage of 2016 presidential hopefuls , Oct 18, 2015 Full transcript http://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2015/10/18/full_replay_and_transcript_donald_trump_with_fnccs_chris_wallace.html
- ^{xxiii} <https://www.johnsonweld.com/education>
- ^{xxiv} Johnson, Gary. (2012). *Seven Principles of Good Government*. Aberdeen: Silver Lake Publishing. (page 69)
- ^{xxv} <http://www.jill2016.com/plan>
- ^{xxvi} <http://www.jill2016.com/platform>