

Education

Educating Our Children for the Future

I have been a longtime and consistent supporter of improving education at all levels. We should do more to support early childhood education that gives children the building blocks and a strong educational foundation for later success in life. Every child should have the opportunity to attend college if he or she desires, and we should do more to lower the cost of their student loans and increase scholarships for high school students.

While I recognize the importance of local control of our schools, I support more involvement and coordination at the federal and state level to ensure that all children are receiving an education that lives up to strong standards.

I have supported the following legislation:

- Supported the passage of the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act (H.R. 3021), which authorizes funds to facilities at schools in an environmentally friendly way. It also contains over \$500 million specifically for Gulf Coast schools to rebuild after the storms.
- Co-sponsored legislation that would authorize grants for pre-kindergarten programs across the country. The Pre-K Act also improves standards by requiring that grant recipients meet class size requirements, curriculum requirements, and that pre-k teachers have at least an associate's degree in early childhood education (H.R. 3289).