

WORLD-CLASS SCHOOLS

JOY_{for}OK



The education of Oklahoma's children is an investment, not an expense —and we should take bold steps toward what's best for our kids.

To build a world-class education for Oklahoma's 700,000 school kids, Joy is focusing on five priorities developed in collaboration with parents, teachers and representatives of local communities from across the state.

1 SOLVE THE TEACHER SHORTAGE

The teacher shortage is a nationwide crisis putting the success and safety of our kids at risk. Joy believes Oklahoma can be the state that solves it.

- Nationally competitive salaries and benefits
- More paraprofessionals, reading specialists, school counselors, librarians and other critical support for students
- Classroom resources and respect for the profession
- Work with regional universities to diversify and expand the teacher pipeline

2 PUT PARENTS IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

Unlike Stitt, whose extreme views on education ignore most parents and hurt most kids, Joy's life's work has been listening to families and fostering their engagement in their student's education. The extent to which families encourage learning at home and involve themselves in their children's education is a predictor of student success.

- Early engagement for parents as child's first teachers (Birth-Preschool)
- Equitable access to a well-rounded and excellent public education
- Broadband/internet connectivity at home for all students and families
- Real-time access to student academic standards and learning progress
- Live streaming of school board meetings with regular public comment
- Creation of Governor's Parent Advisory Council

3 SUPPORT STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH

Oklahoma ranks 10th in the nation for youth suicide death rates among all states, and schools are often the only resource for students in crisis. In 2021, Joy prioritized \$70 million in local and federal pandemic relief funds to increase school counselors and mental health support in schools, but more needs to be done.

- Mental health and substance abuse resources for students and families
- Access to extracurricular activities to deepen student engagement and belonging
- Grow Oklahoma's School Counselor Corps to serve all grade levels
- Training of teachers and school community with trauma-informed instruction
- Continue Oklahoma's Office of School Safety and Security in partnership with Homeland Security and Dept. of Justice (2018-present)

4 PROVIDE EXTENDED CARE AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The cost of raising a family has skyrocketed, and many families struggle with affordable, quality childcare before or after school and over school breaks. Oklahoma has fallen behind on the support today's children and families need to thrive.

- Secure more safe, healthy childcare and educational opportunities before or after school and during summer break.
- Partnerships with Early Head Start programs, private daycares, SoonerStart, public preschools and healthcare providers to support families and learning readiness.
- Leverage public grants and private partnerships to increase access to support in child nutrition, tutoring, and critical social services.

5 PREPARE THE WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE

Joy strengthened Oklahoma's academic standards from D to A level rankings for math, reading and science —our standards are now among the best in the nation. She replaced costly state assessments with a free ACT or SAT for all 11th graders bringing scholarship opportunities and value for students long after graduation. She also introduced Individual Career Academic Planning (ICAP) to all students beginning as early as 6th grade, so families have information about career pathways, internships, apprenticeships and work-based learning. Successful kids lead to vibrant communities and growing businesses.

- Close COVID-19 learning gaps with high dosage math tutoring for 7-9th graders
- Expand Alternative Education opportunities and credit recovery to increase high school graduation for all students statewide.
- Align Oklahoma's CareerTech system with hiring needs of local companies and greater access to high skill, high demand credentials and licensing programs for more students
- Work-based learning, accelerated curriculums and concurrent college enrollment
- Expand Advance Placement (AP) coursework and testing opportunities
- Increase access to Oklahoma's Promise by removing barriers to students who qualify
- Early-college programs in districts with regional universities and community colleges