

# The Opt Out Florida Network Candidate Survey

By completing this survey, you agree to allow The Opt Out Florida Network to publish the results to our network group and state pages. This will not reflect an "endorsement" but serves to inform us, and our membership, about who you are as a candidate on issues important to us. You can find more about our work here: <https://theoptoutfloridanetwork.wordpress.com/>

\* Required

What is your name? \*

Ed Young

What office are you running for? (include name of office, city, district)

\*

Seminole County Soil & Water Conservation District

What is your email address? \*

edmundhyoung@aol.com

What is your public phone number? \*

321-277-4669

If you have a campaign website or Facebook page provide them here.

\*

<https://www.facebook.com/EdYoung4Florida/>

Have you run for this office before? \*

yes

no

Have you run for political office before? If so, what office and what were the results? \*

I first ran for my current seating during a special election in 2014. I ran unopposed.

What organizations are you a part of and what is your role?

I am a member of Seminole Educators Association. I formerly served on its board as its Off-Site Director. I am also a member of the Knights of Columbus.

What is the role of public education in our society? \*

Public education's role is to provide the skills required to be a successful and productive member of society.

What is your campaign message? \*

Helping keep Seminole County a high quality place to live and work.

What is your top priority if you win this election and how will you hold yourself accountable to your constituents? \*

My top priority is to protect the quality of water in Seminole County. I am currently sponsoring a ballot amendment to this affect. My top education priority is to continue to expand our outreach and educational programs through local schools.

Do you have experience in the field of education? What have you done to support public education? \*

I am currently employed as public school teacher and have been one for over 12 years.

How should we be using tests in our schools? Do we need more or less testing? Please explain. \*

We need less testing. While testing does serve a purpose, we are doing too much of it. Testing should be used to show a student's growth against and only against him/herself. This can be used as a early detection for cognitive and behavioral disabilities.

What policies do you propose to improve public education under your jurisdiction? (i.e. Legislation or Student Progression Plans) \*

Better support of special education students (more resources and staff devoted to just them), a county-wide positive reinforcement program that rewards students for doing well and/or students who go above and beyond what they are required to do.

Do you support school choice/charters/vouchers? Please explain. \*

No I do not. This just allows schools that have problems and need help to be ignored and the focus put elsewhere. Charter schools often are run like businesses where all that matters is the bottom line, not whether or not kids are learning.

Do you support the use of test scores in teacher evaluations or merit pay? Please explain. \*

No I do not. Teachers have no say over who they get as students. A special education teacher will statistically be rated lower than a teacher of gifted kids even when the students are evaluated against only themselves as growth and progression will be quite different. Also, why should a teacher be punished if a kid was sick when they took the

test or they just didn't care about the results of said test? Why should teachers be held accountable for something that includes variables they cannot effect.

What do you think ought to be the minimum level of training and qualifications for teachers? Do you support alternative certification methods, such as Teach for America? \*

Yes I do. The teaching profession is desperate for new teachers. Individuals from various work backgrounds that enter education as a second career can bring fresh and unique perspectives to the classroom.

Do you feel that the school grade is a useful measure to inform parents and the community of the quality of the education at a given school? Please explain. \*

While I feel that a school grade is useful to parents and the community as a whole, I do not think that enough information is used to calculate it.

How do you feel about the sharing of student data through privately owned data systems? \*

With the risk of identity theft being so prevalent, I do not think this is a wise idea.

Do you support Florida State Standards (CCSS)? Why or why not? \*

No I do not. The standards are focused on a task and not a product. The standards honestly do not care if you get the right answer, they care if you understand the steps to get there.

What do you believe the parental role/responsibility should be in public education? \*

The parents' role is to provide support for their child at home, advocate for them when their child is not getting the support/services they need at school, to support the teacher when their child is misbehaving, to contribute and support the school as they can and are able to do so, and to hold school district leaders accountable for how the district is run.

Who do you believe should fund public education? \*

If you live in the district, even if you don't have kids, everyone should. Today's students are tomorrow's doctors, lawyers, mechanics, police officers, nurses, and service men & women. We all benefit from a well-educated society.

Do you believe that businesses have a place in driving policy in public schools? If so, please explain \*

Yes, they need to contribute what type of skill set(s) the marketplace is looking for so students can be taught them and be able to find gainful employment following graduation.

Do you have an opinion on who should control our public schools? Please explain. (i.e. Federal, State or Local, a combination) \*

While a combination is need for over site/checks & balances, the bulk of the power should remain with the local citizenry.

What are your views on virtual/online schools? \*

While they are good in concept, I do not think they are quite there yet to match a traditional brick and mortar school in support and resources.

What is your opinion on the opt out movement? \*

I believe it is a great idea but I think the general public (teachers included) need to be better informed about what it is, and how it works.

**What role should technology have in our public school classrooms? \***

Technology has to be part of it. Today's students need technology support and education to be prepared for the jobs of tomorrow.

**What is your opinion on competency based education/personalized learning? \***

I think this is a much better idea. As I stated earlier, when students are tested, the results should be measured against themselves and then instruction needs to be tailored for their needs, interests, and abilities.

**What other issues is education facing in your district and what is your plan to address them? \***

More involvement from the community. My board is working on its 5 year plan which includes further outreach into local schools and more educational programs.

**Is there any other information you would like to share with us? \***

In the 20th century America became the leader of the free world and we did it without standardized testing. Why do we need testing again?