Kirsten Gillibrand's Education Policy

Our Country's Future Depends On The Quality Of Our Education System

Build An Early Childhood Education System For All Children And Families:

- ✓ Encourage states to develop a plan for an integrated early care and education system for children from birth to age five
- ✓ Work with states to develop teacher-quality standards and to increase compensation and incentives for early childhood education teachers
- ✓ Create early childhood education performance accountability standards for all states in return for increased federal funding
- ✓ Offer a range of financial supports to help families pay for early care and education by increasing the amount of the federal income tax exemption for dependents to match the true cost of early childhood education
- ✓ Reform the federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC) by indexing expense limits to the average price of early childhood education nationally and by increasing the value of the credit to 50% (up from 20% currently) for families at or below $150,000

Improve No Child Left Behind And K-12 Programs:

- ✓ Reform No Child Left Behind by fully funding the Act as instructed by the law and modify the testing procedures that stifle state and local control
- ✓ Minimize the differences in standards for student accountability across the country
- ✓ Encourage all states to offer a full day of Kindergarten to every five year old
- ✓ Increase federal funding for teacher training programs to allow our teachers to adapt to the rapidly changing needs of our global economy
- ✓ Work with states to strengthen security and safety procedures in our schools by promoting anti-harassment programs, expand counseling services and promoting after-school programs
- ✓ Fully fund Special Education programs
- ✓ Increase pay and incentives for teachers who decide to teach in a low-performing school or in areas where there are teacher shortages
- ✓ Promote social studies, the arts, civics and technical programs in schools, in addition to math, science and reading programs stressed by No Child Left Behind

Increase Access And Affordability To Higher Education:

- ✓ Increase access and funding for Pell Grants to low-income students
- ✓ Make up to $10,000 in college tuition tax deductible for middle class families
- ✓ Increase funding for science, math and engineering programs in order to regain America's role as the world's leader in technology innovation and critical scientific research.