

Blum: Hello, fellow New Yorkers. My name is Seth Blum and I am on the ballot for Mayor of New York City with The Education Party.

And it is education I want to talk about with you today. Students deserve the best education from the best city in the world and we should accept nothing less. I know firsthand about the quality of education in this city because I have been a high school math teacher at a New York City public school for seven years.

Now, if you want to know my views on other issues besides education, you can always go to our website at EducationParty.org.

But we should also change our laws about who gets to participate in debates. We are on the ballot, but we didn't get an invitation to debate, because we didn't raise enough money. This is wrong.

We always suspected you needed money to succeed in politics, but our current laws make it so.

In the seven years that I've been teaching in New York City, I have seen students throw away their education. I have seen teachers rally City Hall for the respect that we all know they deserve. And, I have seen administration officials consistently ignore teachers'

pleas for that respect.

The Education Party has ideas that will let education evolve from the old archaic way of thinking about education to a new one. Instead of rows of desks, we can have students working together at tables. Instead of mandated curriculum for teachers, we can create a catalog of curriculum written by teachers. Instead of standardized testing, we can have students graduate by a portfolio presentation of their best work.

Instead of treating teachers like subordinates, we can work with them and help them do a better job. Instead of treating students like a statistic, we can work with them and the media and businesses to help steer them towards respect for themselves and their education.

This is the evolution of education I'm talking about.

What do businessmen know about running the schools? What does anyone know about running the schools who isn't an educator? More tests, they might say. Tell teachers what and how to teach, they might say.

But I say something much different. Unlike businessmen, educators are not there to make a profit and educators need to be respected in order to succeed. It is

for these reasons that I am convinced that education needs to be run by educators. Therefore, let education evolve.

I believe all students and teachers should have access to different types of education; from hands-on projects and portfolio assessment to rigid textbook curriculum and testing. Students and parents should have a choice. We can have customized education instead of the cookie-cutter model we see today.

Therefore, let education evolve.

Increased testing is the answer from non-educators who are running education today. Don't trust test scores. Instead, trust teachers. Tests can be made easier, students can be held back so they don't hold down test scores. Please, don't trust test scores. Don't even care about test scores.

Instead, care about whether or not our students can hold a conversation with their peers and elders. Care about whether our students respect themselves and the city they live in. Care about whether they know the issues that affect their lives and their country, And care about whether they know that it is they who are in charge of their future, a future that may require them to be able to learn more than they already know.

Therefore, let education evolve.

Please consider voting for me on November 8th.

My name is Seth Blum and I am on the ballot with the Education Party.

Give us four years to transform the schools.

Give us four years to bring unity within communities.

Give us four years to bring respect back to the teaching profession. Give us four years to get through to students that it is their lives at stake. Give us four years to let education evolve.

Please visit EducationParty.org for more information.

I thank you for this opportunity to speak with you today.