Burgess Owens wants to disband the Department of Education; which would cost Utah schools millions, end federal scholarships and student loan programs, and stop job training initiatives for those not going to college. Owens went to college on a full scholarship and now he wants to take away that same opportunity from thousands of Utahns and their families. We are in a time of economic unrest and education is the key to a good job; now is not the time to cut funding for it. The more you know the more, questions you have about Burgess Owens.

Owens Supported Disbanding The Department Of Education. During a Town Hall in Fairview, UT, Owens stated “If it's not defined in the constitution, I suggest let's figure out a different way. And it's very simple. You guys know this more than anybody else. What if you're allowed to keep the power, keep your money, keep the decisions here versus sending them to DC for them to tell you how you should live your life? It's real simple. it's all constitutional based we the people. And it says that our government should be minimized, not expanded. Constitution. So my suggestion is simple as what these kids particular, and this is what I experienced guys. In my little segregated community in Tallahassee, guess who cared, next to my parents, how I did the school? My teacher, because they were friends. Back in school the worst thing that could happen was for me to tell my, for my teacher tell my parents...so listen, I'll clean it up. I'll do better. Don't tell Mom and Dad, please. Boy I had trouble coming home. Okay, so anyway, that being said, let's take the Department of Education, disband it, and put it back here [Utah] so that moms and dads and the teachers can have the best thing for the kids, for their money.” [Town Hall In Fairview, UT, 00:06:06, 2/2/20] (VIDEO)

Owens Believed The Department Of Education Was Beyond Its Original Purpose And Education Needed To Be A Local Level Decision. According Burgess Owens campaign website, Burgess 4 Utah, under the “Education” issue page, Owens said “The Department of Education has grown well beyond its original purpose. We need to bring education decisions back to the local level and encourage more parent involvement.” [Burgess 4 Utah, accessed 7/23/20]

Abolishing The Department Of Education Would Eliminate Federal Student Loans. “When Cruz says he wants to abolish the Department of Education, I take that to mean he wants to kill all existing programs and funding within the department. No more Pell grants, no new federal student loans, no more Title IX enforcement, nothing. And just moving programs to another department is cheating, so let's assume Cruz wouldn't do that. Right off the bat it’s worth noting that by eliminating Pell and loans, Cruz would kill by far the largest education voucher system in the country. […] Cruz’s plan is also no help to any of the lobbyists for the banks that want to go back to guaranteed lending, the program the government had in place before it switched to all direct lending (or, as I imagine Cruz calls it, ObamaLoans). Despite what Republicans say, the old program was not a free-market mecca: it was a subsidy to banks. That's corporate welfare, so Cruz should be opposed to it on principle, but even if he isn't, it doesn't matter because guess who subsidized the banks in the old system? The Department of Education. But the biggest question mark is what to do with the 1.2 trillion dollar loan portfolio that the Department of Education currently administers. The easiest option, administratively, is to forgive all of the debt, but I'm guessing Cruz wants
those dollars back. The other option would be to sell the entire portfolio in the private market. Given how risky the portfolio is, the generous terms like Income-Based Repayment that must be offered for every loan, the decreased powers the private entity would have to claw back the dollars (no more garnishing tax refunds), the new infrastructure required of the private entity to administer the program, and the teams of lawyers and investment bankers needed to organize an auction, the government would almost certainly lose money from selling the portfolio. The last option, of course, would be to move the loan portfolio to another entity, like the Department of Treasury, but, again, that feels like cheating.” [New America, 11/11/15]

Abolishing The Department Of Education Would Eliminate Pell Grants. “When Cruz says he wants to abolish the Department of Education, I take that to mean he wants to kill all existing programs and funding within the department. No more Pell grants, no new federal student loans, no more Title IX enforcement, nothing. And just moving programs to another department is cheating, so let's assume Cruz wouldn't do that.” [New America, 11/11/15]

• Eliminating The Department Of Education Would Eliminate Pell Grants For 8 Million Students Per Year. “During recent campaign stops, Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump is again proposing to eliminate or drastically cut the U.S. Department of Education. […] Using official budget figures from the Department of Education, CAPAF’s full analysis shows just how far reaching the impact of Trump’s proposals could be on students, teachers, and families. Our analysis examined the largest programs that the agency runs in order to demonstrate what their elimination would mean for the country and for each state. Nationally, according to that analysis: 8 million students every year would lose Pell grants” [Center for American Progress, 9/1/16]

The Department Of Education Funded Employment And Training Programs To Help Job Seekers Find Employment. “Federally funded employment and training programs play an important role in helping job seekers obtain employment. The Departments of Labor, Education, and Health and Human Services (HHS) largely administer these programs. GAO's objectives were to determine: (1) whether the number of federal employment and training programs and funding for them have changed since our 2003 report, (2) what kinds of outcome measures the programs use and what is known about program effectiveness, (3) the extent to which the programs provide similar services to similar populations, (4) the extent to which duplication may exist among selected large programs, and (5) what options exist for increasing efficiencies among these programs. To address these objectives, GAO searched federal program lists, surveyed federal agency officials, reviewed relevant reports and studies, and interviewed officials in selected states.” [U.S. Government Accountability Office, 1/13/11]

Owens Attended College On A Football Scholarship. “Burgess Owens is a former University of Miami and NFL star who travels the country delivering a message of optimism, hope, and unity. He spent his childhood growing up in the Deep South during a time when the barriers of segregation were being torn down. As the third black American granted a scholarship to play football at the University of Miami, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology/Chemistry.” [Burgess Owens for Congress, Accessed 10/14/20]