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Opinion: Atlanta Democrat who switched parties showed heart for students



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Credit: Arvin Temkar/AJC

By Denisha Allen

Atlanta Democrat who switched parties showed heart for students

Over the years, Georgia students — particularly minority students — have faced serious struggles. From 2019 to 2022, math scores for Georgia eighth graders [dropped](#) 8 points on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. Among Black students, only 19% of eighth graders are deemed proficient in [reading](#) and 11% in [math](#).

... Earlier this year, state [Rep. Mesha Mainor](#) was the [only member of her party](#) to vote for a voucher bill that ultimately died in the Georgia House after passing the Senate along party lines. Georgia Democrats were not pleased, to say the least, with one colleague soon posting a [blank check](#) to whoever would mount a primary challenge.

Mainor was undaunted. “Some of my colleagues will say that parents who are marginalized are not capable of making decisions for themselves,” she said [at a press conference](#). “That’s a slap in the face to the people I represent.”

<https://www.ajc.com/education/get-schooled-blog/opinion-atlanta-democrat-who-switched-parties-showed-heart-for-students/KM2UCHIVXZHBVCCFCTYT34YFCM/>