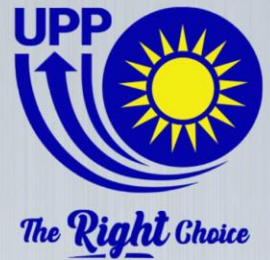


YOUTH EMPOWERMENT



UPP will develop and fully implement a new, more relevant and more effective **National Youth Development Policy** and will ensure that a **Youth Budget** is allocated for the implementation of all youth initiatives.

Youth Development Fund

UPP will channel 10% of all CIP revenues into the **Youth Development Fund** which will facilitate investments into sports, education and training and other areas of youth development.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

The UPP will make a **New Approach** to Young Antigua and Barbuda which increases the participation and decision-making power of the youth at all levels of National Life.

All areas of government decision making will have youth representation.

Youth Representation in Governance

A UPP Government will Increase Youth Representation at all levels, targeting:

- *At least 25% in the Senate*
- *At least 25% across All Boards*

- *At least 10% of Chairs or Vice Chairs of boards*
- *At least 25% on all major committees*

National Youth Council

A UPP Government will:
Meet with the National Youth Council once per quarter to capture the concerns of the youth and account for our performance.

Give consideration to the recommendations of the National Youth Council.

National Youth Parliament

A UPP Government will:
Ensure the National Youth Parliament has a greater role in national decision-making.

Give consideration to recommendations and bills presented by the National Youth Parliament.

National Youth Advocates

A National Youth Advocate will be appointed to every Ministry to ensure that the needs of the youth are being

met and promised time-lines are kept.

National Youth & Student Organization

Create a National Youth & Student Organization, to promote and protect the rights, responsibilities, welfare and privileges of young people.

Student councils will be made mandatory in all secondary schools. This will teach youth how democracy works.

Expand the responsibilities of the Ministry of Youth Affairs to include Youth Jobs, Entrepreneurship, Innovation and the Youth Economy.

This new more robust Ministry of Youth Affairs will administer the programmes and activities of the Youth Economy, and will supervise the YES Programme and other training and support initiatives.

YOUTH HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Provide greater support for youth mental health. Hire more counsellors in schools to tackle social issues and safeguard the future of stressed and at-risk youth.

Improve the training and number of social workers.

In consultation with the National Youth Council and National Youth Parliament, create programs that tackle new threats to the well-being of young people, including issues of mental health, lack of self-confidence and identity, cyber bullying, excessive social media consumption, and national identity.

YOUTH JUSTICE & REHABILITATION

Overhaul the operations and improve the physical plant of the Boys Training School and strengthen our relationship with the Sunshine Home for Girls.

Speed up reform of the justice system to provide more diversionary sentencing options, avoiding incarcerations and long term harm to young people's futures.

Introduce a new Youth Hostel Program to provide accommodation for at risk youth.

Provide increased training to current and former prison inmates to ensure their successful reintegration into productive society.

Implement a **New Beginnings Program** which provides a simple mechanism for

expunging the criminal records of young-adult offenders who have not re-offended for a particular period, to be determined after consultations with the relevant authorities. This programme will apply only to offenders who have not committed capital or particularly heinous crimes.

Provide lifelong opportunities to all youth who did not complete a primary, secondary or tertiary education, especially for boys and dropouts.

Strengthen financial support and training for the **Youth Intervention Unit** of the Police Force.

YOUTH SERVICE

Establish a **National Service Corps** which will enlist hundreds of young volunteers in service and support to communities and service organizations island-wide. This will improve both civic pride and inter-generational understanding. This body will work closely with the Youth Department in shaping its projects and service focus. It will become a valuable partner to youth development initiatives and bodies such as the Boys Training School.

Incentivize youth participation in the National Service Corps, NGOs and other service organizations by providing tuition grants to those who serve for at least 1 year. This will be implemented in consultation with the National Youth Council.



EDUCATION

We will create an environment where every citizen and resident is educated and trained to seize the opportunities of today.

The UPP recognizes that our education system can do more to meet the needs of all students, including adult learners, and is committed to ensuring that early childhood education gets the attention it deserves.

Children with learning disabilities have no access to early-intervention programs or to schools that specifically cater to children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Traditionally, the focus has been on academics, with an emphasis on passing theoretical subjects. We are lagging in skills education, special-needs education, and adult education.

To correct and improve these shortcomings, A UPP Government will:

Offer FREE education for children 2-4 years old in private pre-K centres through a means tested voucher system.

The UPP Government will pay the costs to sit five CXC subjects, inclusive of Maths and English, for all CXC students determined to need such assistance.

Increase the number of uniforms provided under the **School Uniform Grant** programme, from Kindergarten to Form 4.

Foster a closer working relationship between the Ministry of Education and the Antigua & Barbuda Union of Teachers (A&BUT) to ensure that the needs of educators are met and to secure input and greater buy-in to policies and program.

Work with the Teachers Union to **improve the status of teachers** and the culture of education by settling long outstanding compensation issues and establishing High Standards of Teaching.

CONSTRUCT A NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL TO

REDUCE OVERCROWDING

This secondary school to serve the communities within the St. John's Rural West & St. John's Rural South constituencies will reduce the strain on the Ottos Comprehensive and Princess Margaret Schools.

MODERNIZE THE EDUCATION CURRICULUM

Ensure that the **Rights and Obligations of the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda** are taught in schools, within the context of a new discipline called **Civics**.

Encourage all students to learn a foreign language.

Provide on-going training for staff in early childhood centres - both public and private.



Provide More **Entrepreneurial Skills Training and Financial Literacy Training** within the Business Curricula.

STRENGTHEN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Modernize the pre-schools at Simon Bolivar Park and the Grays Green communities and collaborate with private crèches to update their operations.

Construct four (4) **FREE Early Childhood Centres** to assist lower-income families, commencing with St. George's, and expanding to St. Mary's, St. Paul's and St. John's Rural South.

Establish a **National Diagnostic and Learning Centre** that allows every learning-challenged student to maximize his or her abilities to learn; to live independently, as far as possible; and to earn and contribute to the economy.

Ensure that adequate developmental tools are available in all day-care centres.

Provide on-going training for staff in early childhood centres - both public and private.

Collaborate with Ministry of Education administrators, teachers, therapists and parents of **special-needs youth**.

INCREASE FOCUS ON STEM EDUCATION

Introduce and emphasize Science Technology Engineering & Math (STEM) Education from an early age.

Expand the curriculum to include new high-demand areas such as Artificial Intelligence.

Institute remedial programs in Mathematics and English, in primary and secondary schools, and institute an on-going Mathematics Boot Camp.

Create and incorporate **Entrepreneurship Studies** (theory and practicum) as a *mandatory* part of the Business and Agricultural Sciences Curricula.

Improve and enhance the professional qualifications of all our educators, with the view of enhancing their remuneration package.

Launch a program of summer schools led by retired educators for enhancing practical education skills of teachers (improving delivery of the syllabus) and the provision of remedial classes for students.

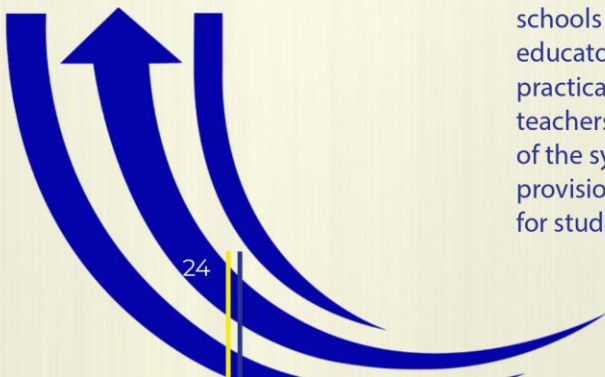
Rebrand ABICE to create a diploma-granting **School of Careers** with Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ). Develop a cadre of highly skilled Technicians in the building trades; small-engine repairs; garment manufacturing; upholstery and sewing; and agricultural science. Internships of six to nine months will be part of the practicum requirements for graduation.

A UPP Government will establish an **Education Park** - for academic institutions, located in the Coolidge/ Dutchman's Bay area. The UPP Administration will provide special incentives for education institutions operating in the Park. There will be a strong focus on **Aviation Technology**. We will make Antigua the Aviation Centre of the Caribbean.

Update the curriculum to promote Antiguan and Barbudan History, Geography and Cultural Studies that will be taught in tandem with the CSEC-CXC curriculum. This is aimed at inculcating in our youth an understanding and appreciation for history and legacy of Antigua and Barbuda.

On a means-tested basis, provide more full scholarships to students of ABICE and Antigua State College.

MY UPP



Provide scholarships to the National Yachting Academy to drive more local participation in our Yachting Industry.

Restore financial stability and fairness to the scholarship programmes.

Online and distance-learning in identified programmes will be encouraged and will enjoy scholarship support.

Reintroduce, expand and actively **promote the annual College Fair** to ensure that our students are exposed to both existing and emerging courses of study and careers.

Revive the National School Meals Programme to meet its original objectives of providing **"Nutrition for Learning"** and improve the partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture.

Enhance the nutritional value of meals provided by the School Meals program.

Deploy more Educational Technology (Ed-Tech) in schools, including Fiber Internet and Smartboards.

Provide adequate high quality and long lasting computer tablets for teachers and students.

NATIONAL SERVICE CORPS

Replace Bonding with an obligation to serve in the National Service Corps by phasing out the current

practice of scholarship recipients having to "work out" a bond.

Beneficiaries of the scholarship programs will be expected to "give back" via a National Service Corps by allowing them to serve as coaches or mentors in schools; teachers in the new Adult Education Program; volunteers at the senior centre, hospital or prison; or contributors in other public ventures.

A Registry will be compiled by the Board of Education and activated by the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social Improvement.

Friday and Saturday classes will be held for **inmates of Her Majesty's Prison** recommended for such program.

Facilitate convenient lifelong education via an online e-Education platform and place most of the new courses to prepare citizens and businesses for the new digital economy on this platform. We will collaborate with education partners.

Pursue a **Maths and English Proficiency Policy** to enhance national productivity.

Offer the opportunity for all citizens and residents to access free Maths and English classes up to the CXC level.

Mandate the Ministry of Labour and the Statistics Department to establish a Human Resource Productivity Metric that meets the World Bank metrics and launch a national education program which helps all workers to boost their productivity in their areas of work.

Ensure our education initiatives drive us to emerge as one of the top countries when it comes to human resource productivity.

Work with UWI and our tourism stakeholder partners to initiate the offering of Business Degrees with a concentration in Tourism Business Management, and the establishment of a Tourism Management Chair at UWI Five Islands.

Establish a National Performing Arts Academy to include the areas of Visual Arts, Dance and Music. Establish a School of Carnival Creativity within the National Performing Arts Academy to strengthen the performing arts sector and create a Carnival curriculum.

The UPP Government will pursue an "Education For All" Policy where all children will be granted school access, on a first-come-first-served basis, without immigration checks or the discretion of the Ministry of Education, once space is available.