



Alaska Parental Rights in Education Candidate Survey

The following questions pertain to your educational experiences and the policies you will support or oppose if elected as a state lawmaker. Laws and regulations inherently make some activities lawful and others unlawful. To the extent that you may personally prefer a particular policy you may indicate your preference, but these questions ask how you will actually govern if elected as a member of the 35th Alaska State Legislature (2027-2028).

1. What types of education did you personally experience as a child (K-12)? Please check all that apply:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| Public | ☐ Tutor | ☐ STEM/STEAM |
| ☐ Private | ☐ Team Teaching | ☐ Democratic/Free |
| ☐ Charter | ☐ Montessori | ☐ Fine Arts |
| ☐ Correspondence | ☐ Waldorf | ☐ Outdoor/Expeditionary |
| ☐ Magnet | ☐ International Baccalaureate (IB) | ☐ Agricultural |
| ☐ Lottery | ☐ Foreign | ☐ Dual credit (HS/College) |
| ☐ School at home | ☐ University-Model | ☐ Sudbury |
| ☐ Hybrid | ☐ Military/Prep | ☐ Community School |
| ☐ POD | ☐ Boarding | ☐ Reggio Emilia |
| ☐ Vo-Tech | ☐ Career and Technical | ☐ Acton Academy/Adventure |
| ☐ Classical | ☐ Language Immersion | ☐ Progressive |
| ☐ Co-op | ☐ Dual Language | ☐ One Room Schoolhouse |
| ☐ Microschool | ☐ Bilingual | ☐ Other _____ |
| ☐ Online/Virtual | ☐ Tribal | |

My K-12 learning was in public schools. I learned well and was able to use that learning when I attended college and throughout my adult years. I had good teachers who challenged me. I am grateful.

2. What types of education have your children experienced (K-12)? Please check all that apply:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| Public | ☐ Tutor | ☐ STEM/STEAM |
| ☐ Private | ☐ Team Teaching | ☐ Democratic/Free |
| ☐ Charter | ☐ Montessori | ☐ Fine Arts |
| ☐ Correspondence | ☐ Waldorf | ☐ Outdoor/Expeditionary |
| ☐ Magnet | ☐ International Baccalaureate (IB) | ☐ Agricultural |
| ☐ Lottery | ☐ Foreign | ☐ Dual credit (HS/College) |
| ☐ School at home | ☐ University-Model | ☐ Sudbury |
| ☐ Hybrid | ☐ Military/Prep | ☐ Community School |
| ☐ POD | ☐ Boarding | ☐ Reggio Emilia |
| ☐ Vo-Tech | ☐ Career and Technical | ☐ Acton Academy/Adventure |
| ☐ Classical | ☐ Language Immersion | ☐ Progressive |
| ☐ Co-op | ☐ Dual Language | ☐ One Room Schoolhouse |
| ☐ Microschool | ☐ Bilingual | ☐ Other _____ |
| ☐ Online/Virtual | ☐ Tribal | ☐ I have not had children |

My children all attended public school. All were well prepared by skilled teachers.

3. What does "School Choice" mean to you and is this something you will support if elected?

School choice means just that. When districts have the resources to provide a variety of schools and approaches to schooling, parents and children can find the best choice for them. I believe that choice also encourages districts to work with parents and community members to design and evaluate a variety of approaches. When I was a superintendent of schools, I proposed the idea of every school become a "charter" school where communities devise what they think best serves their community needs. I believe that would engage parents and demonstrate that a variety of approaches to educating our children would be fruitful.

4. Do you support mandatory testing for Alaska K-12 students?

☐ **Unsure (Please explain)**

I believe that if any K-12 students are tested, all should be. I am not in favor of the idea that universal testing is especially useful. I like the Finish model, where they do random testing. For example, they might say, "All students who were born on the 4th or 17th of the month, please report for math testing."

5. Do you recognize the fundamental right of parents to direct the education of their children? ☐ **Unsure (Please explain)**

Parental support and engagement is very important in schools. Parents should know what is going on in my attending meetings; parents should go to conferences with their children's teachers. If parents want to "direct" learning, they should take the "homeschool" approach.

6. Who is ultimately responsible to direct the education of a child?

- ☐ Parent(s)/Guardian(s) ☐ Teachers/Experts
☐ The State ☐ **Other (Please explain)**

I believe the education is a shared responsibility. Certainly parents and teachers are important, but so are the society's needs. Ultimately, the child is responsible for engaging in their own learning.

7. Do you support the right of parents to opt out of educational content they do not believe to be in the best interests of their child?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ **Unsure (Please explain)** _

Most districts have policies that give parents this option. I think it is important for districts/schools to have such policies that allow opting out with agreement on what will substitute for the content. I also know that as a parent, I may not know what might interest my child or be in their best interests. I think districts work hard to have reasonable curriculum choices.

8. If current state laws with respect to correspondence schools should be changed how would you improve them? I do not know to which laws you refer?

9. Should teachers and school administrators be legally required to promptly inform a parent or guardian if a student has requested to change their gender identity?

☐ No ☐ Unsure (Please explain)

Parents should ask themselves why their child did not inform them of such an important desire. I would urge the child to discuss this with a parent, but would not betray the child's confidentiality.

10. Do you support the inclusion of biological male (non-XX) students on girls athletic teams or in spaces set aside for girls under any circumstances?

☐ Unsure (Please explain) I support children. If biological girls want to be on a boys' team or biological boys want to be on girls' teams, I do not see a problem. This is very seldom an issue.

11. Should families that choose a correspondence program that is not affiliated with their local school district be required to go through their local school district to access the correspondence program they have chosen?

☐ No ☐ Unsure (Please explain)

No

12. Should students participating in non-district education programs be permitted to participate in competitive athletics alongside their peers in their local school district?

☐ No ☐ Unsure (Please explain)

No. Funding is generated by student attendance. If a students not enrolled in that district should not use district funds.

13. Do you support the presence of a school chaplain on school campuses?

☐ No ☐ Unsure (Please explain)

I have never heard of this request. How could a chaplain represent all religions? How would it be funded? When I was a child, we had religious instruction during the school day. It was determined to be unconstitutional. I suspect it would be difficult to ensure a chaplain would not be religious in nature.

14. Do teachers and school employees have a right to self-defense with a firearm at their place of employment, or do teachers and school employees lose their right to self-defense by virtue of working on a school campus?

☐ No ☐ Unsure (Please explain)

No. School staff is there to protect students. The potential for problems with access to firearms are too many to mention

15. Should Alaska high school graduates be eligible to apply for the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) based on college entrance exam scores (ACT/SAT/WorkKeys) alone, regardless of which school or home school a student graduated from?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure (Please explain)

This would require changing the law. I do not think these tests necessarily address state curriculum standards.

16. Should charter schools be permitted to choose accreditation through either a local school district or the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development (DEED)?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure (Please explain) __Schools that are funded by local districts need to be accredited through local districts.

17. Should Alaska immediately end state policies that discriminate against high school graduates applying for employment in corrections and law enforcement on the basis of whether or not a high school graduate's diploma is from an accredited school?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure (Please explain) I am unaware of such policies. I would want to investigate this issue.

18. Have you requested or received an endorsement or other support from the NEA or any of its affiliates?

☐ Yes (Please explain) ☐ No I have not received an endorsement from NEA. I was a member of NEA/Alaska and my local district association. I support teachers' associations as bargaining units.

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 28 evenly spaced horizontal grey lines across its entire width, providing a template for writing or drawing. The margins are consistent on all sides.