



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

☒ Private

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

☒ Public

☒ Private

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

☐ I concur with the definition proposed by [EDChoice.org](https://edchoice.org): “School choice allows public education funds to follow students to the schools or services that best fit their needs—whether that’s to a public school, private school, charter school, home school or any other learning environment families choose.”

☐ I would be happy to work with APHEA to make more education choices available to parents.

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

☒ Unsure (Please explain)

It seems that everyone is dissatisfied with the current system of measuring academic progress, but I haven't heard much interest in discussing which method(s) of measuring academic progress that would be more acceptable. I'd be happy to work with APHEA to identify more useful academic proficiency measurements.

5. Do you recognize the fundamental right of parents to direct the education of their children?

☒ Yes

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

X Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

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?

X Yes

Parents should be given the opportunity to make the positive choice of opting into classes and programs offered through the public education system rather than having to make a negative choice of opting out. Opting out of some content offered automatically creates a 'stigma' that the student does not 'fit in'. Opting in removes the negative stigma associated with optioning out.

8. If current state laws with respect to correspondence schools should be changed how would you improve them?

I am in favor of amending Article 7, Section 1 of our State Constitution to delete: "Schools and institutions so established shall be free from sectarian control. No money shall be paid from public funds for the direct benefit of any religious or other private educational institution." This would enable the state to fully implement 'school choice'.

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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?

X Yes

_Given that parents are ultimately responsible for their children's education, they must be informed of decisions their children are making while outside of their direct control. On the other hand, I recognize that informing some parents of their child's desire to change their gender identity could lead to what society considers an abusive response.

I would be happy to work with APHEA to review Alaska's child protection statutes (AS 47.17) to address this difficult situation.

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?

X NO

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?

X No

Our State Constitution clearly establishes that the legislature - not local school districts - should establish a system of public education.

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

X Yes

I believe this helps all students. But it seems reasonable to amend state school funding statutes to enable districts to recover the additional cost associated with out of district students participating in these programs.

I'd be happy to work with APHEA to resolve this problem.

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

X Yes

I'd be happy to work with APHEA to craft a statute to accommodate enabling school chaplains to work in Public schools or to remove the 'Blaine Amendment' within Article 7, Section 1 of our State Constitution that Alaska's courts probably would rely upon to prohibit this.

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?

X No (Please explain)

Although I do not agree that school employees have a 'right' to carry a firearm in their place of employment,

I'd be happy to work with APHEA to enact a statute that establishes the conditions under which educators may be permitted to carry a firearm within their place of employment.

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?

X YES (Please explain)

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

X Yes (Please explain)

On the other hand, the cost of operating a charter school that a local school district is not willing to accredit should be overseen by and be funded directly through the State DEED.

I'd be happy to work with APHEA to accomplish this statutory change.

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?

X UNSURE (Please explain)

I'd have to check with the departments of Correction and Public Safety to learn why they have established this policy.

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

X No

Additional comments (optional)

_I'd be happy to work with APHEA to promote all options for making more educational choices available to parents and students. Free to contact me through email at gmprax@gmail.com or cell phone # 907-378-5667 to discuss this further.

