



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 | |

Comments:

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 |
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| ☒ Co-op | ☐ Dual Language | ☐ One Room Schoolhouse |
| ☐ Microschool ☐ | ☐ Bilingual | ☐ Other _____ |
| Online/Virtual | ☐ Tribal | ☐ I have not had children |

Comments:

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

Allowing parents to direct their children's learning through school choice is paramount whether public or private. It is also incredibly important for a parent or guardian to have full access to their child's public or private school, where there are open and transparent conversations between educators, administrators, and the family. Families must have the opportunity to opt their children out of lessons they deem incompatible with their deeply held family values. If public funds are being used for education, there must be some accountability built in to ensure students are advancing at a relatively acceptable rate so that they can perform at the level of an average highschool graduate at completion of 12th grade.

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

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Unsure (Please explain)

I support and encourage regular testing, whether it be summative or formal, through incentives and other positive action. I support current state law where parents can opt their children out of mandatory state testing, but there should be some recognition of why the choice is being made and assurance from the parent or guardian that the child is meeting current benchmarks and expectations.

5. Do you recognize the fundamental right of parents to direct the education of their children? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure (Please explain)

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

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

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)

8. If current state laws with respect to correspondence schools should be changed how would you improve them? There should be some consistency between allotments provided between school districts. Currently, large districts have the ability to offer excessive allotments, outcompeting small districts that do not have the same financial flexibility.

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?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure (Please explain)

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?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure (Please explain)

If so, under what circumstances? (Please explain)

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?

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Unsure (Please explain) Competition between correspondence programs across our state incentivizes districts to create more robust, more comprehensive programs. We should not force families into a local district for any purpose.

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

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Unsure (Please explain) Sports programs are associated with individual districts, for which administrators must make hard choices to maintain programs, coaches, equipment, and travel budgets. When a student does not attend the district, that district receives no funding for that student and it puts undue burden on the district to provide an opportunity they're not paid for. If a family wants to pay to participate, then perhaps that should be considered. Great sports programs serve as an incentive for students to attend individual districts and individual schools.

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

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Unsure (Please explain) There are so many different religions, and students from different backgrounds. With respect to any specific Alaska public education campus, where children of all denominations attend, there should remain a clear separation between church and state.

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?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure (Please explain) As a hunter education instructor for more than 20 years, I believe that there should be an opportunity in every school to allow educators and other staff to carry firearms for personal protection, along with potential protection of others. However, there is a difference between a highly skilled, highly practiced person carrying a handgun, and someone who just started shooting a handgun. A short barrelled handgun is much more difficult to handle safely than a long gun, especially in a highly stressful situation. I support current law that allows Superintendents/School Boards to determine campus firearm policies, with some modification, requiring every Board to adopt policies ensuring students and employees are safe while on campus. In some cases, new advanced non-lethal weapons may provide consistently safer environments for student and staff. I encourage removing all no-gun signage on school campuses.

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) If a correspondence family decides to grade student work liberally, there is no expectation that the GPA is standardized. In some cases, this could be an issue between schools as well. If a student misses a course or two to qualify for the different levels of APS, then there should be an opportunity to "test" in. The ACT/SAT/WorkKeys is a final independent look at the student's capability, and I would support the allowance of using this alone as a final scholarship qualification.

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)

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)

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

☐ Yes (Please explain) ☒ No

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