



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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| ☐ Classical | ☐ Language Immersion | ☐ Progressive |
| ☒ 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?

School choice is about returning choices to parents and families so that families are in the driver's seat and others compete to provide them the education tools, resources and services that best serve their children. Every child is different, making a one-size-fits-all education system a poor substitute for individualized learning. I want to invite and encourage parents to take as active a role in their child's education as they possibly can. School choice is one part of that.

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

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Unsure (Please explain)

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?

(See comments below)

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)

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)

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

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure (Please explain)

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)

The right to defend yourself when you are attacked is a human right. You don't ever lose that right. Schools are a unique environment and it is very reasonable for a school to insist on reasonable training for any school employees who will be armed.

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)

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

Additional comments (optional)

Homeschool students should not be discriminated against, period. The idea that my senator proposed this year to force correspondence students to go through a school district that is not doing anything to serve them was a somewhat blatant attack on correspondence programs and the more than 20,000 students they serve.

Families should be free to choose the correspondence program that best serves their needs. Our family homeschools and I wish every family had that opportunity. No one cares more about your child's education than you do. If there is a way to empower parents to invest more into their child's education I want to support them in doing that, whether their child attends a brick and mortar school, an online school, or is educated at home.

Some families prefer more structure than others, and we can support them by providing it. Often their needs change as they become comfortable in an educational setting and as their child learns and grows. They should not be locked into one way of learning. Change is hard enough on its own without throwing up additional hurdles to make it harder when parents are simply trying to make the best decisions for their child.

I would like to see homeschool students not discriminated against when it comes to competitive athletics, scholarship eligibility, and state employment. Alaska should strive to have the most freedom of any state in the nation. Ultimately, scholarships like the Alaska Performance Scholarship should be awarded based on a student's demonstrated performance, like their SAT scores. The school (or schools) they attended should have no bearing on that. By focusing on a child's performance, and empowering parents to make the decisions for their child that they are comfortable making, we best serve children and their families.