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

Comments:

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

- ☒ Public
- ☒ Private
- ❑ Charter
- ☒ Correspondence
- ❑ Magnet
- ❑ Lottery
- ☒ School at home
- ❑ Hybrid
- ❑ POD
- ❑ Vo-Tech
- ☒ Classical
- ☒ Co-op
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- ❑ Reggio Emilia
- ❑ Acton Academy/Adventure
- ❑ Progressive
- ❑ One Room Schoolhouse
- ❑ Other _____
- ❑ I have not had children

Comments:

I have 5 children. They have attended public, private, and homeschooled.

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

Yes. School choice means parents can choose the school and method of education that works best for their child, whether that is a public school, charter school, private school, correspondence program, or homeschool. Every child is different, and parents know their children best.

The goal is for our kids to learn and become proficient, and families should have options to help them get there.

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

❑ Yes ☒ No ❑ Unsure (Please explain)

No. I believe in accountability and making sure our kids are learning, but parents should have the right to decide whether their child participates in standardized testing. That choice should be consistent for all parents. The goal should be making sure our kids are learning and proficient.

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

☒ Yes ❑ No ❑ Unsure (Please explain)

Yes. Parents are ultimately responsible for their children and should have the right to direct their education.

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

☒ Parent(s)/Guardian(s) ❑ Teachers/Experts

❑ The State ❑ Other (Please explain)

Same answer as #5, Yes. Parents and guardians are ultimately responsible for their children and should have the right to direct their education.

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)

Yes. Parents should know what their children are being taught and have the right to make decisions about educational content they believe is not appropriate for their child. Parents and teachers should be partners in a child's education, with the goal of helping our kids learn and succeed.

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

Alaska's correspondence programs give families important educational choices. I would protect that flexibility and look for ways to give families even more choices. They are another valuable tool for parents to educate their children, with the focus always on kids learning and getting a good education.

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)

Yes. Parents are responsible for their children and should be informed about decisions affecting them.

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)

Girls deserve the opportunity to compete fairly in athletics and to have their privacy protected.
Follow the science.

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)

I publicly opposed SB 277 because parents should be able to choose the correspondence program that works best for their child without being required to go through their local district.
Alaska families should have flexibility and choice.

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)

My son participated in football at our local high school while being homeschooled.
We had additional fees and fundraising that we participated in.
Athletics are an important opportunity for kids to learn teamwork and be part of their community.
Students should have that opportunity regardless of the educational option their family chooses.

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

❑ Yes ❑ No ☒ Unsure (Please explain)

I would want to understand how a school chaplain program would work. Whose religion would the chaplain represent, and what role would the school have? Parents should remain involved in decisions affecting their children, and participation should always be voluntary. I also want our school day focused first on kids learning reading, writing, and math.

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, and ❑ No ❑ Unsure (Please explain)

Teachers and school employees do not give up their right to self defense simply because they work at a school. However, when firearms are carried around children, safety and responsibility are extremely important. I would support appropriate training and regular practice for employees authorized to carry on a school campus. Our children's safety should be a high priority.

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)

Students should have the same opportunity to qualify for the Alaska Performance Scholarship regardless of whether they attend public, private, correspondence, or homeschool. I supported the 2024 change that allows students to qualify through either their GPA or an ACT, SAT, or WorkKeys score.

The educational path a family chooses should not hold a student back.

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)

I support giving charter schools another option for approval through DEED while maintaining appropriate accountability. More flexibility can create more educational choices for families, while the focus should remain on children learning and getting a good education.

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)

Graduates should have the same opportunity regardless of whether they attended public, private, correspondence, or independent homeschool. Applicants should be judged on whether they meet the qualifications for the job, not discriminated against because of the educational path their family chose.

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)

My five children have learned through public schools, private school, homeschool, co-ops, and dual enrollment with the university. Over the years, I have volunteered in classrooms, tutored with Classical Conversations, organized homeschool co-ops, and taught classes for kids.

Through all of those experiences, one thing has remained the same: I want our children to learn and get a good education. There isn't one path that works for every child. Parents should be involved and have the freedom to choose the educational path that works best for their child.