

deaeyc Early Childhood Education Candidate Questionnaire

Answers Submitted By: Dayl Thomas

1. What are your views on the needs of young children (birth to kindergarten) and what specific steps would you take to address these needs?

Children are a blessing and should be treated as such! Children need their parents and family members. Therefore, I would do all that I can as a city councilor to reduce and get rid of laws and regulations that keep parents from the free market. When the free market thrives, parents can be more easily hired, start their own businesses, etc., and therefore better provide for their children. Better wages and lower prices that occur naturally through the free market will allow parents to work less and spend more time with their children.

2. What are your views on the ways in which we can close the education achievement gap with a particular focus on the early years?

1. Encourage homeschooling and teach parents how they can easily start their own homeschool groups through Delaware's very libertarian homeschooling laws (some of the best in the nation!). Homeschooling will connect families and friends better than separating them by having children spend six or more hours per day in schools. I am a homeschool teacher and a private teacher and tutor by trade, so I would be more than happy to help set up sessions and meetings to teach parents how to start their own homeschool!
2. For those who cannot homeschool, they may still choose to send their children to private schools and public schools. Parents who homeschool will help the families that choose not to homeschool in three specific ways:
 1. Homeschool families can hire teachers directly to teach their children if they wish, which benefits all involved.
 2. Less children in private schools will increase competition and drive down prices, allowing private schools to focus on better education and cut any wasteful spending
 3. Less children in public schools means better student-to-teacher ratios, which studies have shown is a key factor in improving education. Everyone wins!

3. What is the role of the state/city/federal government to provide for programs that will be addressing the socio-emotional and mental health issues young children will experience in the coming weeks and months resulting from the disruption in their lives brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic?

Their role should be none at all. Government should get out of the way and enable parents to have the freedom to do what works best for them and their children. As families see the shortcomings of government run education, they are being empowered to take their children's education into their own hands, which brings families and friends closer together and allows more opportunities for teachers and students to be more creative as they are unshackled from the chains of government regulations. This in turn will help make people happier and healthier.

4. What steps would you take to attract, and retain quality educators in the early childhood education field?

1. Encourage homeschooling. Parents that group together to hire teachers create better learning environments due to smaller student-to-teacher ratios. In turn, teachers can teach a group for two hours a day, allowing teachers to have multiple paid teaching events in a day. Hundreds of families employing teachers directly creates more jobs for teachers and better learning environments no matter if the learning venue is homeschool, private school, or public school.
2. Encourage homeschooling also allows children to use extra time not spent in a classroom to use their God-given curiosity to educate themselves in what they are interested in via unschooling (<https://www.healthline.com/health/childrens-health/unschooling#risks>). A blended approach to education through both direct education and unschooling makes for very well rounded, happy, and healthy children.

5. As an elected official, what would be your top 4 priorities in the first 100 days in the position?

1. Reduce the spending of city government
 2. Start working on reducing laws and regulations
 3. Petition the state government to legalize drugs as Portugal did (<https://time.com/longform/portugal-drug-use-decriminalization/>). This is much more humane and effective.
 4. Encourage community involvement and a "do-it-yourself" attitude that benefits everyone in the city.

6. How would you improve the economy of your city, our State and/or our nation?

Get rid of laws and regulations that hamper the free market. If there are lots of people creating their own businesses, this will create more jobs, create more competition, reduce the power of the state and corporations, and make life better overall.