

DeAEYC Candidate Questionnaire responses by  
Lee Murphy, Republican Candidate for U. S. Congress  
October 2, 2020

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?

In my view, the needs of young children are first and foremost to feel safe in exploring their world. The best way for children to explore their world is to have the support and nurturing necessary from parents and teachers to be able to freely play. Playing with others is an integral part of a child's development, in learning to socialize with others, and learning about themselves.

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?

In order to close the education achievement gap in young children, we need to ensure that all young children in Delaware have the basic necessities, like nourishment, security, shelter, healthcare, etc., to create a healthy learning environment. We need also to ensure that internet access is widely available to all families in Delaware. The best means to achieve these goals is a vibrant economy with good-paying jobs where parents can support their families, and to support school choice throughout Delaware so that parents can choose the program that best provides for the educational needs of their children.

3) What is the role of the state/city/ federal government to provide for programs that will be addressing the socio-emotional & 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?

The role of government at the state and local levels is to follow the science and fully re-open the economy and our schools for the health and well-being of all Delawareans, most especially the young. The federal government should provide the support needed by state and local governments to accomplish these goals.

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

I would allow teachers to do what they do best, and that is to inspire and teach our young children to reach their full potential. Allow teachers to use innovative, individualized approaches to teaching that work best for them, and pay and reward teachers based on their performance.

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

- a. The economy – bring good-paying jobs back to Delaware.
- b. Law and order – fully fund and support our law enforcement agencies and school resource officers to keep our children and families safe, and to unburden teachers from this added responsibility.
- c. Drug/opioid crisis -- Generate and focus funding on combating the drug/opioid crisis, with dual emphasis on prevention on the front end and long-term treatment options on the back end for those ready to accept help.
- d. Better access to affordable, quality healthcare for all by confronting the drug/opioid crisis and by creating more competition amongst medical providers and health insurers.

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

As a Congressman, I would improve our state economy by creating a business-friendly environment, where families can earn good wages, high school and college graduates can find ready employment, and individuals can start their own small businesses and flourish. I would work with the President and members of Congress to draft legislation that would incentivize manufacturing to return to Delaware, including drug manufacturing now in China which poses a national security risk. I would also work with the governor and state legislature to reduce the effective corporate income tax rate which is now the highest in the country, to get rid of all unnecessary and burdensome regulations, and to reduce our energy costs, all of which drive businesses large and small out of Delaware and have left us with the lowest economic growth rate in the entire country for the last five years.