

deaeyc Early Childhood Education Candidate Questionnaire

Answers Submitted By: Tim Conrad

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?

At this age, children need to feel a sense of security, and apart from their parents, the ones providing for that sense are their daycare providers. We would ensure that those quality facilities are adequately funded and the providers are provided enough resources for their staffs to be properly trained.

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?

Ensure all children in the programs have access to the same educational tools regardless of who's care they fall under. We need to incentivise learning, to the point it isn't a burden to parents with hectic schedules getting kids to and from their providers.

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?

If the government decides to shut down school and government, be it for a pandemic or otherwise, the government needs to provide for an alternative. School is something already paid for through taxes. Right now, we are far enough along where many safety protocols are in place, and schools should be reopening. There exists tools to help students, parents, and others manage through these unusual transitions, and these can be utilized, much in the way an employee resource would be utilized. It can be free and confidential, paid through insurance and/or by the state.

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

There already is a high demand for quality educators. A lot of programs and systems are already in place in school districts to attract and keep good teachers as well as mentoring and other service to help other teachers who may require a little guidance.

Something like this could be implemented at the pre-kindergarten level for daycare providers.

It is my understanding that Deaeyc evaluates buildings and facilities for ensuring the safety of the students there, so this could possibly be extended to the teachers.

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

1. Ensure waste in district funding is identified and eliminated so more is available for the students

2. Ensure that each student along with their parent(s)/guardian has guidance throughout their school career, and follow through with their work through graduation, to ensure the student then transitions into work/college/life and ultimately not the criminal justice system.

3. As I will also answer in the next question, I have an ambitious job creation proposal involving the airport, and in cooperation with the proposal for a seaport, a vibrant new industry will emerge.

4. Make sure students are taught civics and other basic skills, and what it means to be a part of a community. Students are no longer taught life skills, and this is why we see a lot of instability and a sense of entitlement today. As it was before, it could be offered beginning in 9th grade, and this should be compulsory for graduating.

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

Providing for an economic climate which is conducive to starting businesses, not just at the individual level, but also on the larger scale. Delaware has lost several employers over the past 10-15 years. There have been strides made to replace these jobs, even with higher paying jobs, which is great, but those who have lost the jobs that have left continue to languish. Someone who made cars for a living won't suddenly become an alternative energy researcher. We have a lot of resources at our disposal which are underutilized, and we should be taking advantage of those.