

First State Educate's 2026 School Board Candidate Survey

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Appoquinimink

School board members play an important role in guiding the direction of public school districts. The questions below are designed to help voters understand how candidates think about governance, decision-making, and student success. While candidates may express their ideas in different ways, strong responses often reflect several core principles of effective school board leadership.

Public school boards are responsible for setting direction, overseeing district leadership, and stewarding public resources on behalf of the community. **Why do you want to serve on your local school board?**

I want to serve on the Appoquinimink School Board to help ensure strong student outcomes while being a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars. Through my work leading Delaware Kids CAN, I've focused on improving math and literacy, supporting educators, and advocating for families, and I want to bring that experience to our local community.

School boards play a critical role in setting clear goals, holding systems accountable, and engaging the community. I'm running to help keep our district focused on results, support teachers and families, and ensure every student has the opportunity to succeed.

School board members make decisions that affect thousands of students and millions of public dollars. **What principles will guide how you make those decisions?**

My decisions will be guided by a focus on student outcomes, especially in math and literacy, along with fiscal responsibility and transparency in how we use public dollars. I will prioritize evidence-based approaches, set clear goals, measure progress, and adjust when results are not improving.

I also believe in listening to families, supporting teachers, and making decisions that reflect the needs of our community. Strong governance means balancing data, community input, and accountability while always doing what is best for students.

School boards are ultimately responsible for ensuring districts improve outcomes for students. **What student outcomes should your district improve over the next four years?**

Over the next four years, our district should focus on improving math and literacy proficiency for all students, with particular attention to closing gaps for student groups that have been historically underserved. These are foundational skills that impact every other subject and long-term success.

We should also improve attendance, as chronic absenteeism is closely tied to academic outcomes, and ensure students are on track for success after graduation. At the same time, we need to address the teacher vacancy crisis by strengthening and diversifying the teacher pipeline, so every student has access to a high-quality educator. That means investing in recruitment, retention, and pathways that bring more diverse, well-prepared teachers into our classrooms.

School boards must work across differences and remain connected to the communities they serve. **How will you work with fellow board members, district leadership, and families to move your district forward?**

I believe strong school boards require collaboration, respectful discourse, and a willingness to compromise in service of the greater good. While board members may bring different perspectives, the goal should always be finding common ground that moves the district forward and improves outcomes for students.

I will work closely with fellow board members, district leadership, and families by listening actively, engaging openly, and focusing on shared goals. Thoughtful compromise and respectful dialogue lead to stronger, more durable policy decisions, and I am committed to fostering that kind of approach.

School boards are making decisions that affect students and district resources. **How should board members use data, research, and community input to guide those decisions?**

Board members should use data and research to set clear priorities, evaluate what's working, and hold the district accountable for results, especially in areas like math and literacy. Decisions should be grounded in evidence, not assumptions, with regular monitoring to ensure strategies are improving outcomes.

At the same time, community input is essential for understanding local needs and building trust. Strong governance means combining data, research, and community voice to make informed, transparent decisions that best serve students.

School board members communicate decisions to the public. **How will you ensure the community has an honest, clear picture of district conditions and can see how the board is making decisions?**

Given what our community experienced last year, transparency and clear communication have to be a top priority. The Appoquinimink financial challenges highlighted how important strong systems, clear reporting, and timely communication are to maintaining public trust.

As a board member, I would expect regular, easy-to-understand public reporting on district finances and student outcomes, along with clear explanations of how decisions are made. That includes asking thoughtful questions, ensuring strong oversight processes, and communicating concerns early so the community is informed, not surprised.

Rebuilding and maintaining trust requires consistency and honesty. I would prioritize proactive communication, accessible information, and a commitment to transparency so families understand both the challenges we face and how we are addressing them.

School boards often bring together members with different perspectives. **How would you approach working collaboratively with other board members while keeping the focus on the district's long-term goals for students?**

I would approach collaboration with a focus on shared goals and a commitment to respectful, productive dialogue. Different perspectives and lived experiences, when brought together thoughtfully, lead to stronger, more well-rounded policies that better serve all students.

While board members may not always agree, we all share responsibility for long-term student outcomes, especially in math, literacy, and overall success. I will listen actively, engage respectfully, and be willing to compromise when it leads to better decisions. Strong collaboration means using our differences as a strength while staying focused on what is best for students.

Please upload your Bio (summary of resume or professional experience). We will post your Bio on our candidate page. *

Britney Mumford...

↑ Add file

Please upload your picture- high resolution preferred *

Headshot - Britn...

↑ Add file

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