

# First State Educate's 2026 School Board Candidate Survey

Email \*

mckenzpc@msn.com

Full Name \*

Cynthia McKenzie

Cell Phone Number \*

3022282284

School District \*

Milford

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 have retired from the Milford School District after serving as a successful teacher and administrator there for 37 years. I feel I can offer a perspective that someone who is not familiar with the educational process may not have. In addition, members of my family currently work in the district, and my grandchildren will be attending school in Milford as well.

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

Again, having worked in the district I have an understanding of how decisions made by the board can affect all stakeholders. As a former administrator I am aware of how funding can affect decision making for curriculum choices, classroom sizes, classroom support and specialized education. It will be important for me to support the strong leadership in the district, listen to their concerns as well as the concerns of the community, and celebrate the accomplishments of the students and staff throughout the district.

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

Our district is one that services a large population of Low SES students, as well as a fairly large population of Multi-Lingual Learners. I feel we are doing a good job at meeting the needs of those students with current grants and funding opportunities provided by the state. I would like for the district to be able to offer more trade and technical opportunities as well as more advanced opportunities/courses and STEM offerings at both the elementary and secondary levels.

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 have already worked with all of our board members, as well our district leadership team. I currently hold a seat on the board. I feel we currently have excellent working relationships. We have a strong group of district leaders and administration and a superintendent, Mr. Travis Moorman, who is willing to listen and work with all stakeholders in order to improve and move the district in a positive direction. As for the families in the district, I am familiar with a large number of the families throughout the district. Some of the teachers are my former students, my own daughter works in the district, and many of the students that attended the school where I taught and was an administrator have children that also attended during my employment. As I serve on the board, I intend to utilize my background to advocate that decisions and policies put in place by the board are made with the best interest of the students and their families in mind. We have a diverse community; it is important that we reach out to all stakeholders as we are making decisions related to curriculum and use of funding to support student learning at all levels.

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?**

Communication between the board and district administration is vital. It is important for the board to consult with the district leaders and building administration regarding the use of data and current research when making decisions. They are the experts in their field and should be trusted to inform the board regarding decisions that will affect student learning. There is ongoing Professional Development for teachers and administration in all areas to assure staff is current regarding best practices regarding curriculum and student support decisions.

---

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?**

The current superintendent presents a weekly update for the community to review; this is something that I will continue to encourage. The board meetings are online for the community to attend, minutes are posted and there is opportunity for public comment during meetings. I have been present in each of the schools throughout the district, attending functions, doing building walk-throughs, and talking with building and district administration. This is information that I share with community members when the opportunity arises.

---

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?**

As indicated previously, I feel I have a unique perspective regarding decision making due to my tenure in the district as a teacher and administrator. Our decisions should be grounded in setting and maintaining policies that uphold the district's mission and vision while assuring the decisions are student centered. I believe my ability to listen, ask thoughtful and informed questions, and share firsthand experiences will be key to the decisions we will make as a board overseeing the district.

---

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

Resume Doc - Ci...

↑ Add file

Please upload your picture- high resolution preferred \*

3c9a9fb9-8ab4-4...

↑ Add file

This form was created inside of First State Educate.

Google Forms