

First State Educate's 2026 School Board Candidate Survey

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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 decided to run for school board for a couple of reasons. First, I want to be involved in policies that affect people's lives. Second, I have been through the public education system myself in this country and have turned that into a high level engineering job. I want these kids in the school district to get a similar experience and the best way I can help achieve that is by running and implementing policies to achieve this goal.

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

When I am voting on or creating policies, I will ask myself two questions. The first question is how does this policy affect the lives of the students that are in my district? The second question is does the data show that we need to implement policy A, B, C? If these two questions are not addressed, I will not be doing my due diligence as a school board member. I don't run on personal agendas and being completely honest, I don't have kids in the district and I have never worked for the district, so I don't have any preconceived notions or bias about this 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?**

The major outcome that I want to focus on is career readiness. I read that for the 23-24 school year, 78.4% of kids in the state were deemed college ready. To me, if that number is not at 100%, it's an issue. Another outcome that I want to improve is English and math proficiency. Right now, statewide rates are at 41% and 34%(for grades 3-8;2024 numbers), respectively. While we have seen slight increases over the years, I'm hoping to help push this initiative further in my district.

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 may have different opinions compared to my fellow school board members, leaders and families but I will ensure that the number one focus is to help the kids in our district get a better education.

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?**

As an engineer, I use data to drive all my decisions. I'd like to take that same approach if elected to the school board but also factoring input from teachers, students, parents and other board members.

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?**

I'd have a metaphorical "open door policy" if elected. All members of the community (students, parents, teachers) will have access to talk to me about decisions that the board has made, policies that I have voted on or if they have any questions about the district in general. I want to bring 100% transparency and communication if elected.

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 listen to other viewpoints than mine by asking questions and trying to understand where their opinions may come from.

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

Nik Dutta-Roy Re...

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Please upload your picture- high resolution preferred *

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