

# First State Educate's 2026 School Board Candidate Survey

Email \*

elena.brenner65@gmail.com

Full Name \*

Elena Brenner

Cell Phone Number \*

3023835882

School District \*

Appoquinimink School District

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?**

As a retired teacher with 30 years of classroom experience, I feel I can bring a relevant and often overlooked perspective to the role. Too often board policies seem to ignore the impact on the classroom and the burdens they create for teachers who are already stretched to their limits. I want to examine every policy through a classroom-first lens.

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

Currently there exists a strained relationship between the district and the MOT community. Such distrust and disconnect is detrimental to all involved. I want to rebuild the trust and respect the district once enjoyed while fully supporting the classroom.

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

Currently, there is a nationwide reading proficiency crisis. Students need to have solid literacy skills in order to be successful in their education and their lives. The district must focus its resources and talents to ensure that our students acquire the reading skills necessary to become the most successful in their life pursuits. While we currently lead the state, there is still a lot more work that needs to be done.

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 that communication and transparency are the keys to establishing a positive relationship between the district and the community. I will strive to make information available to the public as much as is legally possible. Since the district is financially supported by the entire community, even those who don't have children enrolled, the community is entitled to know what the district is doing, how it's spending money, and what accountability steps are in place to measure our progress. The current cooperative relationship between the board members gives me hope that even if new members are elected, such as myself, this atmosphere of collaboration will continue. Having said that, I also want to be clear that I will not be a rubber stamp. I will advocate strongly for policies that I believe are in the best interest of the students and the teachers, even if I have to do so alone.

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?**

Decisions cannot and should not be made in a vacuum. Without the research and data, there is no way of determining if the board is making the right move. Community input and feedback means that we are pursuing shared goals and objectives. The board should strive to invite and encourage collaboration with all community members, including teachers, parents, and the public.

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?**

Board meetings are open to the public and are live-streamed. The recordings of these meetings should also be available to the public in an easy to find and accessible format. To some extent, at least part of the responsibility to be informed rests on the public. The board's responsibility is to ensure that the information is readily available.

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?**

Having spent 30 years in the classroom, I have had a lot of experience working with students, parents, and colleagues, with whom I did not always agree, in order to reach a shared vision. I believe that listening is crucial to fostering a healthy relationship upon which such collaboration can be achieved. I've found that it is also important to remember that everyone wants the same thing - for our students and teachers to have an environment that fosters creativity, cooperation, and achievement.

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

Resume - Elena ...

↑ Add file

Please upload your picture- high resolution preferred \*

IMG\_9272 - Elen...

↑ Add file

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