

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 want to serve on the school board because I believe every child deserves a high-quality education that prepares them for college, careers, and leadership in our community. With more than two decades of executive leadership in healthcare, nonprofit management, financial oversight, and community engagement, I bring the skills, integrity, and commitment needed to support strong governance, responsible budgeting, and student-centered decision-making. My passion for education, equity, and community empowerment drives me to contribute to a school system where every student can thrive.

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

I will make decisions guided by a few core commitments: putting students first, using public funds responsibly, ensuring equity and access for every learner, relying on evidence and educator expertise, engaging the community openly, supporting staff, and focusing on long-term solutions rather than short-term pressure.

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, my school district should focus on improving early literacy, raising English and math proficiency, continuing gains in science achievement, reducing chronic absenteeism, and increasing both on-time graduation and post-secondary readiness. These areas align with Delaware's statewide performance indicators and reflect where recent district data show the greatest need for growth.

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 will work across differences by focusing on shared goals, communicating openly, and treating everyone with respect, dignity, and professionalism. I will collaborate with fellow board members through honest dialogue, partner with district leadership by setting clear expectations and staying informed and stay connected to families by being accessible and creating regular opportunities for feedback. Working together is the only way to move the district forward.

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 to understand needs, rely on research to choose effective strategies, and gather community input to ensure decisions reflect real experiences. Combining evidence with community voice leads to transparent, informed decisions that support better outcomes for 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?**

I will keep the community accurately informed by communicating openly, sharing data in clear, accessible language, and explaining the reasoning behind board decisions. I will support regular public updates and create easy opportunities for questions and feedback so families can understand how and why decisions are made.

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 work collaboratively by listening to diverse perspectives and keeping discussions centered on our shared long-term goals for students. I will approach disagreements with respect and professionalism, use open dialogue and clear communication, and rely on data to guide decisions. By valuing different cultural experiences, staying aligned with district priorities, and focusing on what students need, the board can move forward together.

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

Abegunde - Prof...

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