

# First State Educate's 2026 School Board Candidate Survey

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School District \*

Colonial

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 believe we are entering into the most consequential moments our district and many districts across America has ever faced, there is a lot at stake. Our long-standing systems and structures are being challenged and our society is entering the fourth industrial revolution. We need board members who have actually led people and organizations through difficult moments and delivered results on the other side. I spent 30+ years in financial services doing exactly that. Building systems and governance structures when there was none. Setting priorities when resources were tight. Holding teams accountable when accountability wasn't easy. And thinking creatively to solve challenges because doing the same thing and expecting a different result is the definition of insanity. These aren't political skills, these are governance skills. That is exactly the type of board members Colonial deserves, this is the track record I have shown, and why I want to serve.

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

Three things I have learned managing large budgets and programs successfully: purpose, prioritization, and accountability. Every dollar has to connect back to a stated outcome. I will ask three questions with every budget decision: What problem does this solve? How will we measure whether it worked? And what happens to students if we don't fund this versus something else? I also believe in honest tradeoffs. Public money is finite, we cannot pretend otherwise. I will never vote for a budget line I can't explain to a parent in plain English.

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

Colonial is moving but not fast enough and not for every student. We need to focus on five specific outcomes: Improving proficiency for underserved students, closing the English learners gap, finishing the job on chronic absenteeism, governing the new strategic plan with real accountability, and making our progress transparent to the community. Our families and taxpayers deserve plain-language, data-driven updates on whether we are delivering on what we said we would do and if not, what we are doing about it.

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 spent my career influencing outcomes without always having direct authority. With board members I will lead with respect but stay anchored to results. With district leadership, my job is to set direction and hold accountability, not micromanage. And with families, listening is not just to be polite or kind, it's data gathering. The parents and caregivers closest to the students often see things dashboards miss. I will work to build relationships and trust which is the foundation everything else runs on.

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?**

In my many years in senior leadership roles, I built governance frameworks where decisions required evidence, not just instinct or opinion. But I also know the numbers can hide things. Data tells you what is happening, research tells you what has worked elsewhere and community input tells you what matters and what's being felt on the ground. None of these alone is sufficient and I've seen organizations fail by over-relying on any one of them. Board members should know the data, do the research and have perspectives on all sides before making decisions. But also ask what the data is not showing, not just what is showing to help guide 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?**

Transparency cannot just be a political talking point, it's a practice. I believe as board members we have a responsibility to provide our communities with clear, straight-forward communication about what the district's results or progress actually shows the good and the uncomfortable. I will push for public-facing progress dashboards, plain-language reporting and "Ask the board" town halls so the community can hold the board accountable too. I believe the board cannot always wait for the community to come to us, we also have to go to them. I will push to explore more pathways to engage with our community.

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've managed large teams where everyone was friendly, but nothing changed. Collaboration and accountability are not opposites, establishing shared and agreed upon goals to focus on helps groups stay anchored when things get politically complicated. I can disagree professionally, advocate persistently, and still move forward with the board's decision as member. What I won't do is stay quiet about something that isn't working.

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

RCampbell Bio w...

↑ Add file

Please upload your picture- high resolution preferred \*

Rasheeda Politic...

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