

# First State Educate's 2026 School Board Candidate Survey

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School District \*

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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 because I care about our students, families, and community. As a parent, advocate, and current board member, I've seen both the challenges and the opportunities within our district. I believe we need stronger transparency, accountability, and communication while keeping student outcomes at the center of every decision. I'm committed to helping move the district forward in a way that builds trust and produces real results for students.

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

My decisions will be guided by transparency, accountability, collaboration, and student impact. I believe every decision should be tied back to what is best for students long term. I also believe in using data, listening to the community, and making sure resources are aligned with clear district goals and measurable outcomes.

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

I believe we should focus on improving literacy, math proficiency, attendance, school climate, and college and career readiness. We also need to ensure students feel safe, supported, and engaged in their learning environment. Most importantly, we need measurable goals and consistent progress monitoring so families can clearly see how students are improving over time.

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 progress happens through collaboration and honest communication. I will work by listening respectfully, asking thoughtful questions, and staying focused on our shared goal of improving outcomes for students. Even when perspectives differ, I believe we can move forward together by keeping students at the center and building trust with families and the community.

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 a balanced approach. Data and research help us understand what is working and where improvement is needed, while community input gives important real-life perspective. Strong decisions happen when we combine both and stay focused on long-term student success instead of short-term reactions.

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?**

Clear and consistent communication is critical. I believe the community deserves transparency around district goals, challenges, progress, and decision-making. I would continue encouraging open dialogue, community engagement, and communication that explains not just what decisions are being made, but why they are being made and how they connect back to student outcomes.

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 believe collaboration starts with respect, listening, and staying focused on the bigger picture. Board members may have different perspectives, but we all share a responsibility to serve students. I would approach collaboration by focusing on shared goals, asking questions, relying on data, and keeping long-term student success at the center of discussions and decisions.

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

Cherry Board bio ...

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