

First State Educate's 2026 School Board Candidate Survey

Full Name *

Nichelle H. Dewitt

Cell Phone Number *

No cell phone will be provided just email

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?**

I want to serve because I bring experience in financial compliance along with experience as a former teacher with dual certification in K–6 general education and K–12 special education. This combination gives me a practical understanding of how policy decisions impact students in the classroom as well as how systems must operate with accountability and responsible oversight. I want to help ensure district decisions are transparent, grounded in evidence, and focused on improving outcomes 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 are guided by accountability, transparency, fiscal responsibility, fairness, and a consistent focus on student outcomes. My experience in financial compliance reinforces the importance of accuracy, strong controls, and responsible stewardship of public resources. My experience in education reinforces that policies must ultimately translate into meaningful support for students.

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 district should prioritize improved literacy and math achievement, stronger attendance, and increased readiness for post-secondary pathways. Equally important is ensuring students are engaged, supported, and learning in environments where they feel safe and able to succeed. Closing achievement gaps and improving consistency across schools should remain central priorities.

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 collaboratively, respectfully, and with a focus on solutions. My experience in structured, regulated environments has strengthened my ability to communicate clearly, evaluate information thoughtfully, and work through differing perspectives. I believe effective governance requires listening to all stakeholders while staying focused on what benefits students.

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 and research as the foundation for decision-making while also incorporating input from families, educators, and the community. My compliance background reinforces the importance of verifying information, identifying trends, and ensuring decisions are supported by reliable evidence rather than assumptions.

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 support clear and consistent communication that explains not only what decisions are made, but why they are made. The community should have a clear understanding of how decisions are reached, how resources are being used, and how outcomes are being measured. Transparency is essential for trust and accountability.

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?**

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

Nichelle - Comm...

 Add file

Please upload your picture- high resolution preferred *

Nichelle - Comm...

 Add file

This form was created inside of First State Educate.

Google Forms