

TELL CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR PUBLIC OFFICE THAT



EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION MATTER

Step 1: Find Elections & Identify Candidates

Visit elections.delaware.gov to find out information about elections happening in your area and identify the candidates who are running. Use the [District Lookup Tool](#) to find what district you live in.

elections.delaware.gov



gis.elections.delaware.gov

Step 2: Ask Your Candidates

1. How will you help families find and afford child care?

a. Most Delaware families (83%) have trouble finding child care due to high costs, long waitlists, and a shortage of providers. How will you help families who can't find care?

2. How can we help more families access state-funded child care?

a. Child care expenses are often the biggest monthly expenditure for families, costing more than mortgage payments. Additionally, only 1 in 5 children under 5 can access public preschool. Will you commit to investing more so that more families will be eligible for state-funded early care and education?

3. What will you do to support the early childhood workforce?

a. Child care teachers earn just \$13.25 hourly (minimum wage) and pre-K teachers earn just \$29,000 yearly. How will you address workforce challenges in the early childhood sector?

4. What are your plans to ensure children are ready for kindergarten?

a. Without quality early learning experiences, children can fall behind early. How will you ensure that children enter kindergarten with the skills they need to succeed?

5. Will you prioritize investments in early care and education to benefit children, families, as well as the state's economy?

a. Without child care, parents can't work—and local employers suffer. As many as 80% of Delaware caregivers are holding back from advancing their careers, pursuing education, or buying a home. How will you help parents reach their goals?

Step 3: Continue Your Advocacy

Stay engaged and informed about early care and education issues in Delaware. Visit firststateprek.com to learn more about ongoing advocacy efforts and how you can get involved.

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