



The following questions were emailed to candidates on February 10. Responses received by the deadline of February 20 are included in our evaluation. No edits were made to any responses.

Ted Estes (District 41)

Do you believe your school's current Health Education curriculum should include age-appropriate sex education? What do you see as the strengths and/or areas needing improvement in this curriculum?

I am a firm believer of age-appropriate sex education. Providing accurate information to students helps them make better choices about their sexual health and behavior. According to Advocates for Youth, "[comprehensive sex education] programs can help youth delay onset of sexual activity, reduce the frequency of sexual activity, reduce number of sexual partners, and increase condom and contraceptive use." Including topics the topics of consent, healthy relationships, gender identity, sexual orientation, and interpersonal violence, reduces the risk of sexual assault, increases the acceptance of others, helps to develop a positive self image, and fosters communication and trust.

What is your position on the renewal of the Invest in Kids Scholarship Tax Credit Program? Do you favor state tax credits or vouchers for use by families to send children to private schools? If so, how do you feel this will affect public schools?

I would like to see the Invest in Kids Scholarship Tax Credit Program sunset as scheduled. I am against tax credits or vouchers for sending children to private schools, because this results in diverting tax dollars that should be spent on public education. Not only is public schooling available to all, but it is also accountable for its spending and results. The same cannot be said of private schools, which do not fall under the same requirements.

What, if any, is the role of the Board in the selection of materials for school libraries and curriculum development?

The School Board approves curriculum that is recommended by the Superintendent. The Board's role is to ask questions to ensure that the proposal is evidence and research based, and that the cost is justified. The Board also monitors the academic results - the standards of which are largely dictated by state and/or federal statute. Our educators are the ones who are best equipped to determine how our students should be taught. Not only do they have the experience and background necessary for those decisions, but I feel that it's important to grant authority when assigning accountability.