

Candidates Early Childhood Education Survey Results

The Children Matter Action Fund is surveying all candidates for Pennsylvania House and Senate seats to learn more about their views on childcare and early childhood education. We invite you to learn more by reviewing their responses below; by contacting their campaigns; and by following them on social media. Let them know your views on the importance of ensuring young children in Pennsylvania get the early education supports they need and deserve.

Name: **Matthew Duvall**

Current Job: **Instructional designer**

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You are running for election in which

House or Senate District?: **House District 102**

Q: What are your views on the benefits, or drawbacks, of allocating additional state funds for high-quality early learning education?

A: I believe we should increase funding for, and access to, Pre-K and Head Start. Early childhood education is an important part of an equitable public education system.

Q: Will you support increasing annual investments in the Pre-K Counts and Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program line items?

A: Yes.

Q: How important, or unimportant, is expanding access to high-quality child care to working families in your district?

A: Expanding access for child care is very important. I'm a father of three young children, and it was eye opening to see the impact of the pandemic. Even without those stresses, the costs can be staggering - and for working families, it presents a catch-22 situation.

Q: If you support increased state investment in subsidized child care for infants and toddlers at the campaign's recommended levels, how will you help the campaign expand child care for working families? OR If you do not support the proposed increases in access to child care, please explain why.

A: I believe targeting these programs to the areas with the most need, as well as including both the child care centers and community representatives in an advisory capacity, would help to garner support and generate innovative solutions for expanding child care options.

Q: Improved parenting skills, increased family economic self-sufficiency, improved maternal and child health and reducing abuse and neglect are just a few of the key benefits realized through evidence-based home visiting services. How do you view the needs and benefits of home visiting to families?

A: As a parent, I recognize the importance of having a support system in place. Home visiting services can help provide support for those who don't have access to other options. Sometimes just having an objective, outside perspective can help resolve issues that we encounter as parents. At the same time, it's important that the families involved view these as supportive relationships rather than some type of intrusion into their lives.

Q: How will you support the expansion of state investment dollars to serve those in your district who can benefit from home visiting?

A: I believe increased funding should accomplish three goals: first, provide more money to agencies so that they can expand their services; secondly, promote these programs in the appropriate communities so that families are aware that these services exist; and finally, contribute to further research into how these programs help these families succeed.

Q: What would you do to increase payments to high-quality providers to improve their ability to retain qualified professionals?

A: One issue here is the minimum wage in Pennsylvania in general, which is something we need to address. We could also implement a grant system, where costs of education and other professional development are covered for child care workers, provided they continue their employment at a high-quality program for a set amount of time after completing the training. Otherwise, if they leave before that amount of time, it becomes a loan.

Q: How will you champion early care and early childhood education?

A: Two of my main priorities are increasing access to high quality public education and supporting working families, which means addressing child care and early childhood education. We need to provide affordable, quality childcare options for our working families. And we need to expand access to early childhood education, so that it's available for any family that wants it, rather than only those that can afford it. Expanding funding for these programs and implementing income-based payment options are just two ways we can achieve these goals.