

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: **Jonathan Kassa**

Current Job: School Board Director and Co-Founder & Managing Director at Grand River Solutions

Website: <http://www.kassaforstaterep.com>

Social Media: Facebook- @JKtoFlipThe151st
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Campaign Contact Person: **Luke Borwegen**

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You are running for election in which

House or Senate District?: **House District 151**

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

A: I am strongly in favor of additional state funding for high-quality early learning education. There is no investment more important than our children's future. As a school board director, I know the importance of properly funding our schools and education programs. We need significantly higher state funding for early learning education not only to expand availability, but also to make programs more equitable for low-income communities and to ensure that all children have access to high quality early learning education.

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

A: I will support increasing annual investments in Pre-K Counts and Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program line items. The value of these programs for our children and our commonwealth is indisputable and they must be provided with the funding that they need to provide and expand access to high quality early learning programs.

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

A: Expanding access and affordability of high-quality child care for working families in my district is of the utmost importance. A large majority of families in Pennsylvania have two working parents, which means that childcare is a necessity. However, access to high-quality childcare is limited and prohibitively expensive for many families. It is vital to provide government resources to improve the accessibility and affordability of high-quality child care to ensure both the success of our workforce and the futures of our children.

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 will make expanding child care for working families one of my priorities as an elected official. If I serve on the relevant committees, I will introduce legislation to expand state investment in subsidized child care and if I am not, I will work with representatives in those committees to make such legislation a reality. I will additionally use my position as an elected official to both be an advocate for expanding child care and to provide resources on the issue to my constituents.

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: Evidence-based home visiting services have been proven to be effective in assisting families in becoming better parents. These programs have been shown to be undeniably beneficial even through their current limited use. Expanding such programs is an important step towards ensuring that parents across the commonwealth have the tools they need to be successful.

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 will support the expansion of state investment dollars for home visiting in my district through the legislative means available to me as a representative. I will work to ensure legislation is proposed and passed that provides funding for expanded evidence-based home visiting programs and additionally lobby for such funding to be included in the state budget.

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

A: I will support the expansion of state investment dollars for home visiting in my district through the legislative means available to me as a representative. I will work to ensure legislation is proposed and passed that provides funding for expanded evidence-based home visiting programs and additionally lobby for such funding to be included in the state budget.

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

A: When I get to Harrisburg, I will be a vocal advocate for early childhood care and education. As a parent and school board director, I know the importance of early childhood care and education. This past year, I oversaw the expansion to full day kindergarten across North Penn School District. As a representative, I will make early childhood care and education a priority and work to provide programs for early childhood care and education with the funding that they deserve to ensure the futures of our children.