

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: **Harold Hayes**

Current Job: **Master Plumber**

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

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You are running for election in which

House or Senate District?: **House District 18**

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

A: Providing more funds for early learning is an investment that will pay dividends. The data show that early childhood learning leads to better educational and economic outcomes. It is a concrete way to help at-risk children grow up to escape inter-generational poverty.

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

A: Yes, support.

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

A: I believe childcare is a major concern for working families in the district, including mine. We need to expand these services and make sure that families can afford them.

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 support increasing state investment at these levels. We can't continue to rely on increased federal funding, especially when demand is higher than can be met by existing services. We must ensure that existing childcare centers survive the economic crisis caused by the pandemic, and we need to increase the number of high quality programs overall so that demand can be met.

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: There is no rule book to parenting, and I believe many new parents would welcome some guidance. With so little funding currently provided to visitation services, the immediate priority should be expanding programs for children and families who are in poverty or at risk.

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 a budget that expands state investment in these programs. I will also make sure that information about these programs is available as part of constituent services.

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

A: One of my major policy goals is to increase the minimum wage to \$15, which would give a raise to many early childhood teachers. These educators are critically important and should not be paid less than kindergarten teachers.

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

A: The key to improving early childcare and early childhood education is increasing funding. I will support a budget that expands these programs, and I will support relief efforts to ensure that the existing programs can survive the economic downturn caused by the pandemic.