



## 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: **Paul Friel**

Current Job: Owner of PACE Environmental & Member of the Owen J. Roberts School Board

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

Social Media: **@PaulforPA**

Campaign Contact Person: **Jhonas Dunakin**

Campaign Contact Cell Phone: **215-834-6002**

Campaign Contact Email Address: [jhonas@paulforpa.org](mailto:jhonas@paulforpa.org)

You are running for election in which

House or Senate District?: **House District X**

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

**A:** I support allocating additional state funds for early childhood education. These programs are some of the best investments we can make, not only from a social standpoint, but from an economic one as well. More funding is needed to make up for inequities, and this investment is especially beneficial at the early stages of education.

**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 to high-quality child care is very important in our district. Too many working parents are put under an immense amount of stress, both financially and mentally/emotionally, to find affordable childcare or other options for their children. Child care is crucial for economic security and mobility, especially for working mothers; it must be made universally accessible.

**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 we must raise revenue by closing corporate loopholes and making large industries pay their fair share. This is how we should pay for the variety of educational investments that I believe we must make, including in child care and early childhood education.

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: To me, the benefits from home visiting listed above are crucially important, and can be understood as part of my overall legislative priority to invest in our children and families. By providing high-quality social and healthcare services from an early age, including home visiting, we are setting up families and children up for a successful future.

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

A: See 2b for my plan to raise revenue for the state; I see home visiting as one of the social and health services that we must invest more heavily in.

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

A: I would support increases in these subsidies so that they can retain qualified staff through greater allocation of state funding. I would also support investing in training and education for providers so that more people are qualified for these important positions.

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

A: I'm a public school parent and member of my local school board, and I got into this race because of education. We need to prioritize Pennsylvania families in our legislation to ensure equitable opportunities regardless of your socioeconomic status, race, or location. This focus on ensuring our children have access to high-quality education and child care must start early. The first few years of a child's life are crucial for their development and future success. Putting resources in early care and early childhood education is one of the best investments we can make in our future. I am committed to putting greater state funding into childcare and early childhood education. I believe universal child care is necessary for the wellbeing and success of both children and parents. Just as our government ensures that all children are able to receive an education, we must do the same for child care. I'm committed to providing the resources to train high-quality care providers and ensure all families have access to this child care.