



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: **Kacey French**

Current Job: CorrellGreen - Architect/President

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You are running for election in which

House or Senate District?: **House District 95**

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

A: High-Quality Pre-K allows a child the opportunity to begin to develop a true sense of themselves by beginning to depend upon people other than their parents/siblings. And although there may be a short adjustment time, self reliance begins to grow. A self reliance that develops through social interaction with others and not just their parents. High-Quality Pre-K for all levels the initial learning achievements. It lays the foundation for future academic achievement. Providing a child with a strong early educational foundation is priceless. When provided it can help reduce remedial and other more costly intersession later in a child's education from PK to 12. In addition to providing for the child, assistance and support of the parents is critical.

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

A: Yes, we must invest in our children. They are our legacy.

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

A: Extremely. District 95 was struggling prior to this pandemic. Equitable education is desperately needed to move forward and build a stronger local economy. This is not a quick fix. It need a sustainable, long term commitment. Patience, because this truly must be a generational plan with the commitment of everyone.

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: COVID 19 has created an environment where planning for our children's education is constantly changing. One day our children are scheduled to go back into the classroom and the next they are to remain at home to be taught on cyber. There are many things that must be addressed. With the right plan constructed, I would be very supportive of an increase.

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: The entire family is essential to a student and schools success. When there is a strong, sustainable home visiting protocol in place barriers are overcome with common goals built on trust and good communication. Everyone benefits, the family, student, educator, and community.

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

A: As a candidate, I have been reaching out to our local school district and providers of education here within District 95. I believe in setting in place programs and protocols that are sustainable, effective, and meet established goals. Programs and protocols that are monitored and data driven so that if it is working one continues to support the plan, if it needs to be modified, tweaked, one must be ready to be innovative and pivot. We must place the welfare of our children first.

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

A: Building an understanding that there is a pay now or pay later principle. High-quality early care and education is critical to positive child development. If we invest early (pay now) the potential to generate significant positive economic returns come to fruition. I believe in an equitable education system and completely agree a child's education should not be based upon their zip code.

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

A: My decision to run for office is based upon my desire to effect change for both those starting out in life and those at the end (eldercare). Education is the key to building a stronger, more sustainable country, population, and citizens of the world. I would work towards legislation that would obtain this.