

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: **Shanna Danielson**

Current Job: **Music Teacher**

Website: <http://www.shannaforpa.org>

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You are running for election in which

House or Senate District?: **Senate District 31**

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

A: I am fully in favor of expanding the state's investment in early childhood education and childcare. There will always be voices asking how we pay for these programs, but I believe there are many ways to raise additional revenue, and these programs would be immensely beneficial to Pennsylvania children and families.

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: Extremely important, especially as we navigate our recovery from this pandemic.

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 think these initiatives are a good start towards filling a critical gap in care in PA, but our childcare needs expand beyond just infants and toddlers- we're seeing that now as schools are going virtual or opening in a hybrid model. I would advocate for expanding affordable childcare options to all children 12 and under.

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: This is a critical service for families. We should be looking to expand initiatives like this that will help our families feel more secure and provide the strongest possible foundation for our children.

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 would be interested in co-sponsoring legislation, and holding hearings and town halls in my district around this program.

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

A: I am in support of a \$15 minimum wage on the state level, which would automatically boost wages of millions of Pennsylvanians. I also believe we should find ways to increase state funding to centers who meet these rigorous certification standards, and provide more continuing education opportunities for their teachers and caregivers.

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

A: This issue is incredibly important to me. I have a 6-year old son, and my family has felt the heavy burden of the cost of childcare. We only have one son because we could not afford childcare for more children. This issue hits my generation hard, and it is not getting better for young families. I talk frequently about the need for more affordable, high quality care for our kids, especially if we want to provide more opportunities for women in the workforce.