

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: **Shaun Dougherty**

Current Job: **Small Business owner**

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

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You are running for election in which

House or Senate District?: **Senate District 35**

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

A: Education should never be reliant on your zip code. We need more money to early childhood education. All children need access to pre-k and the additional benefit of food security that goes along with that.

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: Very important, long gone are the days that one parent could stay at home. Child care expenses are a hardship to many working families, not only in cost but also availability. If you work outside of the traditional work day it can be even harder to find child care. My district has a significant rural population which we know the more land, the less access to childcare.

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: Work diligently to have more child care facilities to get certified for the STAR program.

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: Child neglect is a huge problem in our society. Home visits could teach prevention and help address this before it is too late. I think many people are overwhelmed, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and would welcome some guidance.

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 support the expansion of state dollars by co-sponsoring legislation to increase spending for the Childhood Begins at Home program. I would work closely with Gov. Wolf to help achieve this goal that benefits all.

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

A: Any person with a 4 year degree in early education should be making \$45,000 a year, just like Gov Wolf's proposal for teachers.

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

A: I will work hand in hand with organizations like yourself, the department of health and human services, and Gov Wolf to ensure that all children have a right to quality early childhood education.