

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: **Janet Diaz**

Current Job: **Medical Analyst, Lancaster General Health**

Website: <https://janetdiazforpastatesenate.com/>

Social Media: **N/A**

Campaign Contact Person: **Oliver Truong**

Campaign Contact Cell Phone: **717-940-7254**

Campaign Contact Email Address: **oliver@janetdiazforpa.com**

You are running for election in which

House or Senate District?: **Senate District 13**

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

A: The state of Pennsylvania has underfunded public education including early childhood education. Our students are lagging behind. By funding pre-k programs, we are able provide opportunities for all our children, students, and working 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: Very important. The COVID pandemic put additional pressure on families and child care. Working families in the 13th district are already struggling to keep up. Funding child care and implementing paid sick leave will help working families who are already struggling.

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: For far too long, working families have been forgotten in Harrisburg. In my role as a Senator, I would bring visibility and awareness of child care and other issues facing working families.

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: I am supportive of this approach and would like to see these programs be culturally competent and inclusive. Many vulnerable families in my district have low English proficiency and I want to ensure these families still access any resources and programs available.

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 am open to expanding state investment in home visiting programs. It's important that these programs are designed to be inclusive and culturally competent and measured to ensure results.

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

A: When my family moved to Lancaster, my mother struggled to find work. She eventually found a job paying minimum wage and we struggled as a result. Working families need a break. One way to help working families is to provide a livable wage. Hardworking Pennsylvanians deserve a raise and nobody should work two or three jobs just to get by.

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

A: I will support legislation that will increase the quality and funding of early childhood education and child care.