

NJPSA Questionnaire for NJ Legislature - 2021 General Election

User: Mammano, Emma / Email: emma@emmafornjssenate.com

Survey answered on: 9/21/2021 03:43 PM

1. Legislative District #: (answer type: Number)

10

2. Office You Are Seeking: (answer type: Short Text)

Senate

3. Party: (answer type: Short Text)

Democrat

4. Campaign Phone Number: (answer type: Short Text)

(215) 796-5399

5. Campaign Mailing Address: (answer type: Long Text)

113 LEONE DR
BRICK, NJ 08724

6. Staff Contact Name and Phone Number (if preferred): (answer type: Long Text)

Alex Kirschner, Campaign Manager (number is above)

7. State investment in a state level school facilities strategic plan to address long-ignored school infrastructure needs across all school districts in need in New Jersey (answer type: Multiple Options With Single Answer)

Support

8. Supporting school employees' (including NJPSA members') rights to collective bargaining (answer type: Multiple Options With Single Answer)

Support

9. An ongoing commitment to the scheduled phase-up of funding of public employee pensions according to the schedule set forth in the law (answer type: Multiple Options With Single Answer)

Support

10. Private school vouchers in any form (tuition tax credits, opportunity scholarships, etc.) (answer type: Multiple Options With Single Answer)

Oppose

11. No new unfunded state mandates for public schools (answer type: Multiple Options With Single Answer)

Support

12. What health care policy approaches and priorities do you support for our public schools with the goal of maintaining in-person learning? In your mind, since educators are not health professionals, when do you believe a statewide approach is needed and when is a local approach more appropriate in deciding pandemic-related school health policies? (answer type: Long Text)

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I support universal masking in schools until all students and staff can be vaccinated and the transmission rates for the Delta variant decline significantly. I believe the state-level mask mandate is appropriate because it is based on the best scientific knowledge of the moment. I do not support local control on this issue because people who do not believe in science should not have the right to make policy decisions that put children and community members at risk. Once rates decline and younger kids can receive the shot, I would return local decision-making control, where leaders can tailor their approaches to the specific needs of their districts. I am in favor of federal or state-funded (and run) screening programs, which test asymptomatic children regularly to detect covid cases early. I am in favor of federal or state-funded rapid testing made easily available at no cost to all community members. I am in favor of placing HEPA-certified air filters in every classroom.

13. What issues do you see in this area and how can you assist local districts in addressing school infrastructure needs in both SDA (Schools Development Authority) districts and regular operating districts? (answer type: Long Text)

The lack of air conditioning and adequate ventilation is an urgent problem. I would ask for ARP and CARES Act money to renovate schools with antiquated or no air conditioning systems. I would work with the NJ Congressional Delegation to see if we can get federal funds, either from the infrastructure bill or through some other means, to modernize our school facilities. I would search for untapped sources of state revenue in order to pay for much-needed facility upgrades.

14. As a legislator, will you support professional educators in their work with their students and avoid the temptation to mandate specific programs for every school district as we work to meet the individual needs of each student, school and district? How will you support the work of educators and principals in your district? (answer type: Long Text)

As a mental health counselor myself, I understand that a "one size fits all approach" is not effective. As a legislator, I would turn to the local education leaders to learn what they think is most needed for their students and staff. I would base any recommendations on their input, as well as the best evidence-based practices of the moment. I will continuously fight for adequate funding for mental health services in the school setting.

15. Do you believe New Jersey students should pass a state graduation test or demonstrate proficiency in math and language arts standards as described above to earn a high school diploma? (answer type: Long Text)

I do not support the use of a state-wide standardized graduation test, or any high-stakes testing. I would encourage the development of a more individualized assessment in order to determine graduation readiness. I would rely on the expertise of the staff and teachers in each school to make those decisions about their students since they know them best.

16. As a legislator, what will you do to promote education as a positive career path to our youth and what types of initiatives will you consider to enhance the educational career pipeline for the future? How will you promote diversity within our future workforce? (answer type: Long Text)

I would work with high schools and colleges throughout NJ to provide opportunities and incentives for youth to enter the teaching profession. In order to increase diversity, I would focus recruitment efforts within communities of color, including Black individuals as well as immigrants. More funding and scholarships should be available for youth who want to pursue a career in teaching. I will also

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advocate for the collective bargaining rights of educational professionals, and for them to be paid wages commensurate with their importance in our society. Raising educators' wages, keeping their share of healthcare costs low, and paying into the state pension fund are all ways to make the teaching profession more enticing.

17. Will you vote for legislation (S-3284 (Greenstein)/ A-5011 (Wimberly)) that provides the same accidental death benefit to school employees who lost their lives in the service of their school community while performing such essential services? (answer type: Yes/No)

Yes

18. Thinking about the future, what are your goals for our public education system and what actions will you take as a state legislator to support our educators, our students and our schools? (answer type: Long Text)

I am proud of our New Jersey school system. As a legislator, I would strive to maintain the highest quality schools in the nation. My main priority would be making sure the state adequately funds the schools, whether it's through increasing taxes on the wealthy and corporations, using taxes from legalized marijuana sales, or some other creative revenue stream. I am extremely concerned about covid, so I would continue to push for upgrades in school infrastructure to keep students and staff safe. I also would work to increase the availability of mental health services for students and staff.