

# NJPSA Questionnaire for NJ Legislature - 2021 General Election

User: Park, Ellen / Email: ellenjparkesq@gmail.com

Survey answered on: 10/11/2021 01:29 PM

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

37

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

Assembly

3. Party: (answer type: Short Text)

Democratic

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

413-644-6335

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

P.O. Box 968

Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632

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

David Epstein

413-644-6335

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 &nbsp;New Jersey&nbsp; (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&nbsp; (answer type: Multiple Options With Single Answer)

Support

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

Oppose

11. No new unfunded state mandates for public schools&nbsp; (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

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**pandemic-related school health policies?&nbsp;&nbsp;  (answer type: Long Text)**

Education professionals in New Jersey have done an amazing job teaching through the course of the Pandemic. The State should provide guidelines for COVID mitigation standards, while providing the resources needed for schools to meet those standards. A local approach for certain areas can be effective, however a statewide leadership on in-person schooling is necessary to move New Jersey forward.

**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? &nbsp;&nbsp;  (answer type: Long Text)**

Public School buildings in NJ have been in need of infrastructure funding long before COVID. Federal funding should go toward repairing our aged school buildings and re-working them to mitigate the spread of COVID and future contagious illnesses. The Legislature and educators must work together to come up with a list of priorities to prepare our school districts for the post-pandemic future.

**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? &nbsp;  How will you support the work of educators and principals in your district?&nbsp;&nbsp;  (answer type: Long Text)**

I rely on the educators as to the needs of their schools. Each district or municipality may have different needs. However, Statewide standards are the most direct path to equity in education. I intend to follow the wisdom of New Jersey educators when sponsoring and voting on legislation pertaining to educational standards. Educators and education administration ought to be included at every step of that process.

**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? &nbsp; &nbsp;&nbsp;  (answer type: Long Text)**

Without data, it is hard to say whether a standard test is necessary in order to graduate high school. That being said, we want to send our kids out to the workforce able to tackle the daily challenges of a job. They must know perfunctory math and language arts. I hope to consult with educators on what methods are effective in achieving successful graduates in the workforce and raising the standard for education in New Jersey.

**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? &nbsp;  How will you promote diversity within our future workforce?&nbsp;   (answer type: Long Text)**

We should promote education as a positive career, a commendable career thru education to our little ones and have a presence at job forums to promote same. I also believe there should be incentives and bonuses for teachers who go beyond the classroom to promote higher education and trust and assistance to students who really need additional help. Perhaps there can be a referral program for teachers who can bring qualified educators of color to be part of the future workforce.

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17. Will you vote for legislation (S-3284 (Greenstein)/ &nbsp;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? &nbsp;(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?&nbsp;(answer type: Long Text)

As a parent who have kids still in the school system, I will work with educators, students and parents to do our best to achieve the best education for our NJ schools. NJ public schools are rated one of the highest in the nation but there is always room for improvement and this way we will always be ahead of the curve.