

NJPSA Questionnaire for NJ Legislature - 2021 General Election

User: Verrelli, Anthony / Email: verrelliforassembly@gmail.com

Survey answered on: 10/8/2021 06:47 PM

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

15

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

General Assembly

3. Party: (answer type: Short Text)

Democratic Party

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

(609) 251-9424

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

verrelliforassembly@gmail.com

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

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)

We must do everything in our power as lawmakers to make sure that students, teachers, educational support professionals, and all other staff members are supported such that in-person learning is safe

NJPSA Questionnaire for NJ Legislature - 2021 General Election

User: Verrelli, Anthony / Email: verrelliforassembly@gmail.com

Survey answered on: 10/8/2021 06:47 PM

for everyone. A statewide approach to public health is necessary to ensure that basic COVID safety measures are being followed. A school district should be able to implement a local approach ensuring public health and safety if the area in which the school district is located is experiencing a particularly high rate of COVID transmission.

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)

We lawmakers must ensure that a sizeable proportion of federal dollars allocated to the State of New Jersey is dedicated to the improvement of the physical infrastructure of school buildings across our state, particularly those buildings that are most in need of renovation/modernization. We must make sure that educators are part of the conversations surrounding how to best allocate these dollars.

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)

Any piece of legislation that involves administrators, teachers, educational support professionals, and education staff must include these education professionals — they, not lawmakers, are the people teacher our children in the classroom, and they know best how to meet the unique needs of their students.

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)

Ideally, a student will demonstrate a baseline level of proficiency of core subjects that will indicate graduation readiness. I must acknowledge, however, that while a standardized test, while a good measure of attained skills for some students, is just one lens through which to view the whole profile of a student and does not tell the whole story when measuring of the quality of the education being provided by a particular teacher. I would be willing to study and consider the various methods by which graduation readiness is measured.

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 supported the Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations act, which provides for a deposit of nearly \$7 billion into the public-worker pension fund by the end of the fiscal year, the first time in nearly 25 years that the full payment as recommended by actuaries has been paid into the system. We must continue to fully fund our public-worker pension system. I also support incentivization mechanisms for prospective teachers like loan-forgiveness programs, grants, and scholarships. We must also continue to fund the Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG) program so that a prospective teacher is able to become an educator without being hampered by the cost of an undergraduate education.

NJPSA Questionnaire for NJ Legislature - 2021 General Election

User: Verrelli, Anthony / Email: verrelliforassembly@gmail.com

Survey answered on: 10/8/2021 06:47 PM

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)

- Continue to ensure that our public-school system is the best in the nation
- Make school funding formula more equitable
- Continue to make full payment as recommended by actuaries into state public-worker pension system
- Close digital divide that hampers education for students without Internet access and the digital devices they need
- Work to modernize school infrastructure
- Ensure that every student has access to the mental health services they need