

2022 North Carolina General Assembly Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Kanika Brown

District: House District 71

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Current Occupation: Rehabilitation worker

1. What are your views on the needs of young children (prenatal to age 5) and what specific steps would you take to address these needs?

Studies have shown that the education that children receive at a young age can underscore their long-term academic success. That makes sense - how can we expect a middle school student to excel if they're still struggling with basic concepts? Issues such as preschool availability are critical not only for the development of children, but for the economic prospects of a family. Right now countless North Carolinian families have to either decide to pay high childcare costs or forgo working in order to stay at home and watch their young child. States across the nation have seen positive benefits in investing in creating equitable and high-quality preschool programs for children, and I would wholeheartedly support efforts to expand access to childcare and early education programs.

2. What steps would you take to ensure that children birth to age five have access to high-quality and affordable early learning programs?

Boiled down, the most the legislature can do to encourage the development of high-quality early learning programs is to put money where our mouth is. Right now teachers at all levels are underpaid, overworked, and often tasked with dealing with incredibly large class sizes. We need to pay teachers more so we can keep our best ones here in North Carolina, and sufficiently fund them so that every child, no matter their age or their zip code, receives access to good education.

3. What steps would you take to stabilize and sustain North Carolina's early education system and child care workforce as we approach the end of the federal child care relief funding?

I believe that both parties can work together to find the funds to ensure that our child care workers and early education specialists are paid what they need in order to not only survive, but thrive in North Carolina. We can't afford austerity measures when dealing with education - education and early child care are investments in our future. When we let them fall by the wayside we are spiting ourselves in the future.



4. What are your views on how to provide all children with access to a sound, basic education beginning in early childhood?

We need bold action to fund our schools. We need to leverage our laws to make sure that large corporations aren't exploiting tax loopholes and not paying their fair share. And as I said above, if we're not giving teachers the resources and pay they deserve, how can we expect our kids to have a top-notch education? Educators at all levels are doing the best with what they have - it's time that we give them what they need.