

## **2022 North Carolina General Assembly Candidate Questionnaire**

**Name:** Christy Clark

**District:** House District 98

**Party Affiliation:** Democrat

**Current Occupation:** Guest teacher

### **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?**

Young children need strong starts on life beginning in utero. I advocate for expanding Medicaid in North Carolina so working families can have access to quality healthcare. Postnatal care for families in housing, income and food insecure situations is vital to ensure the health and well being of children. North Carolina also needs to continue to grow access to pre-k education programs. Strong pre-k programs not only help start children strong academically but also socially.

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

We can expand the early learning programs that are associated with elementary schools. We can also provide educational programs for early learning educators to ensure they have the best tools to help children. This will help give both parents and children a strong foundation.

### **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?**

With the budget surplus and rainy day fund, the legislature can appropriate funding for early learning programs including continuing education for teachers. Early learning teacher's salaries need to be brought to a living wage, so they aren't required to work two jobs.

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

North Carolina needs to provide funding for public education and follow the orders of the Leandro decision. This includes fully funding all aspects of public education from the building, the staff, the educators and resources like supplies, books and technology materials.