

2022 North Carolina General Assembly Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Ashton Clemmons

District: House District 57

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Current Occupation: State representative, educator

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?

I believe there is no greater investment we can make that in supporting families to have healthy and engaging experiences for young children. First, we must stabilize and strengthen the Early Childhood Workforce with appropriate funding models and innovative approaches. Second, we must decrease adverse experiences of our mothers and children, especially during prenatal and the first year of life. Third, we must increase access to effective and efficient health care for families during pregnancy, delivery, and the first years of life.

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

As shared above, the early learning is dependent on a work force that is currently in crisis. We can strengthen and expand successful statewide programs such as WAGES while also expanding other innovative approaches.

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?

We need to invest in the early education system and child care workforce with increased state investments while also exploring new models such as TriShare.

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

It is our constitutional obligation to provide all children access to opportunity - a high quality education is the foundation of that obligation. We must responsibly invest in our children and their families with strong early childhood, K-12, and post-secondary opportunities.