

2022 North Carolina General Assembly Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Susie Scott

District: House District 70

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Current Occupation: Volunteer

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 are at a crucial period in their physical, mental, and emotional development. Their brains and bodies are undergoing major changes that will affect their growth and development in later years. They must have access to nutritious food and healthcare. To be prepared for kindergarten and subsequent elementary school classes, they also need to play and learn in a caring, supportive, safe environment that bolsters their education and social skills. I would work to expand Medicaid to address maternal and child health needs. I would also work to invest more in early childhood education programs to reduce the waiting lists for high quality childcare.

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

I would fully fund the Leandro Plan which includes additional funding for high-quality pre-kindergarten programs throughout the state. I would also expand Medicaid to ensure expectant mothers have access to prenatal care and young children and their families have access to affordable healthcare. It would also provide affordable healthcare for early childhood care providers who may not receive adequate wages to afford health insurance coverage. To increase childcare availability, I would increase the child care subsidy rates.

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?

Again, raising the minimum and average subsidy rates would increase the availability of child care programs in our state. We also need to expand our investment in Smart Start and Pre-K. My county is fortunate to participate in the WAGE\$ program, and I would like to see that expanded to all counties across the state. And we need to ensure child care workers have access to health insurance by expanding Medicaid.



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

We need to make child care and Pre-K more accessible by increasing the number of slots and expanding eligibility for Child Care Subsidy Assistance. In addition to making child care available for working families, we need to invest in Smart Start community resources so they will be available to all families through community hubs such as public libraries and book mobiles.