

2022 North Carolina General Assembly Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Kandie D. Smith

District: Senate District 5

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Current Occupation: State representative, consultant

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?

Beyond the basic human needs of ensuring our kids have access to reliable housing, quality food, and safe water, we in State Government also have a responsibility to protect our kids by providing them with a high quality education, access to healthcare and health services, and the ability to learn and grow in a supportive community that values them.

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

One of the most important things we can focus on when it comes to this age group is securing universal Pre-K to ensure these kids are well taken care of in programs that promote education, social togetherness, and personal growth, while simultaneously providing a critical service to working families.

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?

The State Government has a large budget surplus that could be used to help with any future deficits as they arise. People are our most important resource, and early education is a critical first step in building long-term sustainable communities.

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

Universal Pre-K is something we must continue to push for on both the State and Federal level. We must also ensure that in NC we fully fund education as stated in the Leandro ruling. An investment in early childhood education is a long-term investment in a child's future, and it is one we should not hesitate to make.