
2022 North Carolina General Assembly Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Eric Terashima

District: House District 17

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Current Occupation: Retired Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps

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 have a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, so this subject is particularly near and dear to my heart. It is proven that properly educating young children leads to greater academic achievement overall. More public funds need to be invested in the future for our children, and this age group should have our fullest attention. This is a concrete step towards addressing the shortfalls in our education system. The US has been falling behind the rest of the industrialized world for decades in STEM education, and is long overdue to address this problem. It starts with educating young children. Proper education is a marathon, not a sprint.

Young children in particular are voraciously curious. That curiosity needs to be nurtured with love and empathy. That is why I was particularly enthralled to be endorsed by the National Association of Social Workers and the North Carolina Association of Educators. Curiosity is the spark and energy for learning, and the focus at that age needs to make it fun and exploratory. Pre-K educators need more support and resources to make our society better in the long run. Educators are there because they want to be that spark for our children, and we need to support them as much as we can.

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

Early learning programs should be encompassed as part of the overall public education system. Early education should be made more accessible to help out the middle class and working class. Additionally, this would enrich our society with better educated children.

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?

Nothing is more important than the welfare of our children. Early educators need more resources and higher pay. I will work to have these measures codified into law.



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

Corporate profits are at an all-time high. Corporate taxes are scheduled to go to zero in the next decade. Those corporations are now jacking up rental rates at obscene levels. If you want to provide a sound basic education to young children, we should be taxing those folks at the top tier of earnings, and preventing those same folks from gouging higher rents from the working class. We have a predatory system that preys on the lower and middle class that needs to be stopped. I will be part of that solution.