
2022 North Carolina General Assembly Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Joyce Waddell

District: Senate District 40

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Current Occupation: State legislator

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?

In the first 5 years of their lives children require relationships and experiences that stimulate their growth and development. Young children's foundations for learning, health, and behavior is developed during this time. I believe it is incumbent upon legislators to fund early childhood programs to help with that growth and development, programs like quality daycares, K-4 and K-5 programs.

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 work closely with my colleagues across the aisle to vote for and fully fund early learning programs. Currently, I am member of the Education Committee because of my background in education. I know how important it is for children to get a strong foundation, and I believe fully funding those early childhood programs is imperative to laying that 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?

Being a part of the Senate Education Committee, I would approve continuous research for the importance of fully funding these programs. I would also lobby to strongly encourage my colleagues to vote for and lobby for extra funding to ensure the availability of adequate funding to make sure the state fully funds Pre-K.

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

We can begin by fully funding Leandro. Because we live in a global society, we must provide each student the technology and supplies to learn and compete. It is important that education is fully funded to allow for increased educational opportunities.