



2026 Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Information

Gary Weart

Running for NC Senate 33

Candidate Responses

Q1: *In your view, what is the purpose and value of public education for North Carolina?*

A1: Critical. It is an investment in our future. Not an expense. We will pay dearly if we continue to discount our teachers, students, and public schools.

Q2: *Do you believe that the state is adequately funding our public schools? What changes, if any, would you propose related to funding for education in order to ensure that every child has the opportunity to receive a sound basic education?*

A2: The vouchers ("opportunity scholarships") will be the death knell of public education. Our public schools are not being fully funded. 80% of students attend public schools. These schools receive maybe 50% of state funds. Not to mention the 16% from the NC Educational Lottery?

Q3: *As a member of the North Carolina General Assembly, what policies would you champion in order to ensure that all students have access to a qualified, diverse, dedicated educator workforce?*

A3: We must ensure ALL students receive appropriate choices to establish a livelihood. Not all attend college. Work force development, skills, vocational, military, mental health support, career counseling, etc.

Q4: *Do you support the recent expansion of North Carolina's Opportunity Scholarship voucher program? What accountability measures should private schools receiving public tax dollars be held to?*

A4: Absolutely not. They should be held to the same standards as public schools. This is an excuse to segregate our schools.



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Q5: *What do you think the General Assembly should do to ensure schools are equipped to address student well-being and mental health needs?*

A5: Fund the programs fully to support our schools. Counselors, school psychologists, intervention personnel, special needs, etc, are under funded and staffed.
