



2026 Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Information

Julie Mayfield

Running for NC Senate 49

Candidate Responses

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

A1: The purpose and value of public education is to ensure that everyone receives a sound, basic education that will enable them to achieve their academic and professional potential. We know that educational attainment correlates directly with income and long term economic success. Everyone should be able to access the education they want to enable them to meet their potential.

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: No, we are not currently adequately funding education. I would point to the Leandro plan as the starting point for funding public education, but it all starts with what we pay our teachers and the resources and support we provide them. We should pay them commensurate with their value.

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: Again, it starts with pay and incentives for educators to continue learning themselves (such as getting a masters degree). We also need to incentivize people to go into teaching through reductions in tuition or loan repayment incentives. And we need to incentivize teachers to work in rural, often underserved areas.

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?*



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A4: No I did not. We should not be providing vouchers to people who were already sending their kids to private school, and there should be an income cap. The schools receiving vouchers should be held to some kind of academic standards and their teachers should meet some basic qualifications as well. If we keep vouchers, we need those accountability measures to in place.

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: More onsite health clinics would be a good start, but also incentivizing mental health professionals to work in or with schools so there are more of them, and/or helping children access outside expertise when the system isn't able to provide it. There is a shortage of professionals, so we need to incentivize people to go into those professions as well.
