



DENVER DEMOCRATS

School Board Questionnaire

Scott Esserman

What seat are you running for?	District 3
I value inclusive schools with high expectations for all students.	Agree
I believe LGBTQI students and families should see themselves reflected in books and lessons in classrooms that all students experience.	Agree
We must protect our most vulnerable students from the impacts of federal budget cuts by prioritizing programs designed to support low income students, students with special needs and multi-language learners in our budget	Agree
I believe DPS should provide multiple pathways to success for our graduates including training in vocational professions for students who are interested	Agree
It is my responsibility as a Board member to support and hold the Superintendent accountable to continue all programs promoting equity within DPS despite pressure from the federal government.	Agree
I believe student academic growth is a more equitable metric for measuring the success of a school or the Superintendent than academic achievement.	Disagree
It is my responsibility as a Board member to support and hold the Superintendent accountable to improve academic outcomes for our Black and Latinx students whose academic outcomes are far behind their white peers.	Agree
It is my responsibility as a Board member to support and hold the Superintendent accountable for demonstrating how he is supporting and investing in struggling schools so they can avoid being "reimagined" as defined by the school transformation policy.	Agree
I believe reduced class sizes should be a high priority for the budget	Disagree
It is my responsibility as a Board member to support and hold the Superintendent accountable for partnering with universities to provide inclusive, accessible programs for educator licensure so we can increase the pool of diverse educators living in Denver	Agree
I believe comprehensive health resources should be a budget priority	Agree
I beleive increased educator and paraprofessional staff salary should be a budget priority	Agree
I would support coordinated resistance against a school voucher program imposed on Denver by the federal government	Agree
I believe the school board must work together with other Colorado governing bodies to maintain local control over our public schools and resist federal mandates	Agree
I am a strong advocate for the new state funding formula which is based on student need being applied in full without delay	Agree
I believe providing gender neutral bathrooms in DPS schools is a necessary life affirming policy for nonbinary and trans students	Agree
I believe welcoming, supporting and protecting our immigrant students is fundamental to educational equity	Agree
As a school board member I would like to see reports about student engagement and the development of critical thinking skills over academic achievement reports	Disagree
The Trump administration is attempting to rewrite history in many places across America taking down signs in national parks and items out of museums and off of websites that explain the impacts of the genocide of Tribal peoples, the impact of slavery, and the impact of global warming while also diminishing the contributions of leaders in the many strong movements for social justice in our history. It will be my responsibility as a school board member to ensure that students in Denver learn about the true history of the United States.	Agree
The American Birthright standard is a conservative social studies curriculum guide that focuses on patriotism and an idealized version of American history that does not acknowledge the harm caused by our ancestors. As a school Board member I would oppose this curriculum being implemented in Denver.	Agree
I support all educators rights to unionize no matter what type of school they work in	Agree
I believe that student mental health supports are critically important and must be part of what the Superintendent is held accountable for by the board.	Agree
As a school board member it is my responsibility to request reports that show evidence that schools are abiding by the state laws to limit seclusion and restraint practices for behaviorally challenged students	Agree
I believe restorative justice is an important alternative to punitive discipline such as suspensions and therefore it is my role as a school board member to hold the Superintendent accountable to ensure all staff are trained, supported and held accountable to implementing restorative justice.	Agree
Please explain what additional information you would need to determine your answer for any statement you were not able to agree or disagree with	I disagreed with the either/or nature of this statement: "I believe student academic growth is a more equitable metric for measuring the success of a school or the Superintendent than academic achievement" I believe both measures serve a purpose and are necessary. Similarly this statement: "I believe reduced class sizes should be a high priority for the budget" doesn't allow for the nuance of exploring the impact of reducing class sizes (which I absolutely believe in) and the impact of doing so on the budget and number of positions. And, "As a school board member I would like to see reports about student engagement and the development of critical thinking skills over academic achievement reports" I again believe is not either/or, but both/and.
Which if the following statements best matches your views about school closure?	Schools should be closed for low enrollment
Which if the following statements best matches your views on the DPS Board's role in charter oversight?	I would fulfill my duty to approve or disapprove new charter requests and existing charter renewals on a case by case basis.
Which of the following statements best matches your opinion about standardized testing?	Standardized testing is over used in schools today.
Which of the following statements best matches your views about using student assessment data as part of educator's evaluations?	I am concerned that using student assessment data as part of educator evaluations undermines educator collaboration
Which of the following statements best matches your views about banning books in schools?	I believe educators and librarians should select all the books and materials to be used in classrooms.
What statement best matches your views about school safety?	Safety is critically important in schools and DPS should work strategically with school police to ensure students are safe and that their civil rights are protected.
What else would you like the Denver Democrats to know about your candidacy for school board?	As a proud Democrat and incumbent board member who has consistently expressed those values as an elected official advocating for out LGBTQ+ community needs, defending our new to country and immigrant communities, securing the highest minimum wage in the city for our hourly workers, overseeing historic raises for our educators, demanding universal dyslexia screening, improving student achievement and creating safer schools.