



Mayoral Candidates Respond to The Kids Agenda

How will you, as Mayor, make sure every child has access to high-quality, early learning opportunities?

HELEN GYM

I helped champion legislation that created a specific and dedicated revenue stream for expanding free Pre-K education across the city. As Mayor, I will continue to advocate for increased resources for Philadelphia's early childhood education system to ensure that every child has access to quality options. This includes fighting for increased wages for early childcare professionals because research shows that one of the most important factors in the future academic success of a child is the quality of their teacher.

CHERELLE PARKER

I have always believed in the importance of early childhood education. One of the first landmark pieces of legislation that I was a part of on my election to City Council was using a new revenue stream to fund PHL Pre-K so that quality education early was available for all children.

As a city, we need to do a better job of preparing our students and adult learners to enter the workforce. As we look to the future of childhood education in the city, I am excited to see the details of the legislation that comes from the state following the Commonwealth Court ruling that will ensure that all Pennsylvania schools are funded equitably. There is almost no scenario where the Philadelphia School District does not receive more funding, and I am excited to tackle the problem of workforce development with increased funding.

But what will that look like? From early childhood learning through to high school, we will have a chance to re-examine and fund how our kids learn to better prepare them for their lives after high school: whether that is learning a trade, going into a specialty field, or to college.

REBECCA RHYNHART

The City of Philadelphia should expand access to pre-K opportunities. High-quality pre-K will prepare students with the fundamentals that will help them learn in the early elementary school years. Investing in kids today is an investment in the future of Philadelphia for decades to come. Pre-K also gives parents a nurturing and supportive environment to care for their children while at work. One way we can ensure that pre-K gets the resources it needs is to ensure the revenue from the soda tax is kept in an account separate from the general fund so that every dollar of revenue goes to its intended purpose, which includes pre-K.

A Note from The Kids Campaign: Responses are as of March 27, 2023. Warren Bloom Sr., Amen Brown, Jeff Brown, Allan Domb, and David Oh did not respond to the candidate questionnaire. James DeLeon responded late and did not directly respond to each and every question.