



Mayoral Candidates Respond to The Kids Agenda

How will you, as Mayor, make sure every teenager has a meaningful summer job and a job on graduation?

HELEN GYM

I know that in order for our residents to qualify for careers with opportunities for growth that provide family-sustaining wages, Philadelphia must do a better job of workforce development and job training. There is currently a large gap between the skills that city businesses need to grow and thrive, and the workforce development pipeline that empowers Philadelphians to build their skills to meet modern employment opportunities.

As Mayor, I will expand the number and increase the quality of career and technical training programs that set students up for good union jobs and bright futures. Programs like the District's new CTE program at Strawberry Mansion have started the process of placing children into the pipeline for the building trades. As the District transforms its buildings, it must accelerate and expand programs like this, developing a growing cohort of Philadelphia graduates with practical, hands-on learning experiences in Philadelphia schools, dedicated to servicing Philadelphia school building issues. I also plan to utilize the city's numerous post-secondary educational institutions like the Community College of Philadelphia to provide workforce development opportunities for high schoolers looking to grow their skills and be prepared for post-secondary opportunities.

CHERELLE PARKER

We need to look at the economic impact on working families that schools provide by being safe and nurturing places for children while their parents and caregivers are at work. Acknowledging that, we will work to find ways to grow and increase both the safe spaces as well as the economic freedom that they provide, so we will be looking at before and after school as well as summer programming in our schools. There is no reason that a working parent or caregiver should not have a safe place for their children while they are working from 9 to 5.

As mentioned previously, 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. This means strengthening the School District's relationship with the Building Trades and scaling the pre-apprenticeship program they are currently piloting. It also means working with business and industry to identify both the jobs that are needed now, and to look around the corner to the jobs that will be needed five, 10, and 15 years from now and start integrating training for those jobs into the curriculum.

And it also means enhancing college preparatory training and looking to increase the number of quality schools like Masterman and Central. And we will be doing all of this without interrupting the current curriculum. Students will be able to learn after school and over the summer as we keep our schools open longer and year-round.

REBECCA RHYNHART

The city should expand training for recreation center lifeguards and summer camp assistant counselors throughout the year. This training is a win-win because it gives kids fun, safe places to play in the summer while

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teens can earn money, learn new skills, and keep busy. The SDP has a system that tracks teens to ensure they are college bound or entering a trade. We must redouble our efforts to make sure that every young person who chooses higher education graduates from college. For those who choose not to be college-bound, we must have strong pathways for them to acquire the training they need to excel in the trades or emerging technical industries. My administration will engage with unions, private companies, Eds and Meds, and the city government to connect students with job opportunities throughout the Philadelphia area.

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.