



## School Board Member Candidate Survey: 2023

Additional comments provided by: **Shelia Smith**

“Public education is paramount to our society. However, a student deserves choice if the current option available to them is not meeting their needs. A student who is economically disadvantaged should not be forced to remain in a declining / failing district. The U.S. ranks 26th in the world in K-12 student achievement, getting lapped by China, which places first overall as well as in each major individual academic area — math, reading, and science. Those who proceed to college from America’s high schools often require remedial courses to make up for their deficient K-12 education — 33 percent of four-year public college students and 60 percent of community college students need up to 30 hours of additional coursework. Despite all this, the U.S. outspends nearly every other country in the world on K-12 education — 35 percent more per student than the average developed country — spending which has tripled in constant dollars since the 1970s while achievement has stagnated. Research has shown that the competition improves public schools.”

Children First Action Fund is a nonpartisan organization that works to ensure that all children, especially those burdened by poverty and adversity, have the best chance of reaching their full potential. We work on both sides of the aisle, in a non-partisan fashion, to help elected officials learn what it takes for children to succeed and persuade them to support our legislative measures. If you have any questions, please reach out to [childrenmatteractionfund@gmail.com](mailto:childrenmatteractionfund@gmail.com).

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