

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE SURVEY

Name: BOB ROSES

District: 19

Please limit each response to no more than 50 words.

1. 21st Century Challenges:

The economy and demographics of Alaska are changing in the 21st Century. Even as state and federal standards require districts to bring all students to greater proficiency, employers demand graduates with continually increasing and changing content competencies.

- A. How do you think our schools/district should change to ensure that all students receive an education that will equip them to succeed?

Changing to a competency based system for graduation, exploring a pre-K program, and increasing vocational training programs would provide a better approach to preparation for the work place and post secondary education.

- B. What, if any, is the role of the legislature in implementing or facilitating these changes?

The legislature has a responsibility for adequate funding for public education. They should also explore the possibility of a change in graduation requirements along a competency based system.

- C. What ideas do you have to help school districts prepare Alaska's students to meet the current and growing demand for a trained and technically skilled workforce?

Expansion of programs such as King Career Center and Military Youth Academy. Alternative programs that allow for concentrated curriculum in math, science and technology.

2. Increasing Technology Needs for Student Learning and Parent Access to Information:

Not always visible, but critical to the success of the whole education program, technology must receive the increased attention required to keep up with ever-expanding demands.

- A. What role do you see technology playing in education of today's students for jobs of the future?

Technology must play a critical role. The example of telemedicine illustrates to what heights technology can deliver. Educational programs through technology expands schools to a 24 hour classroom.

- B. What is your plan for providing adequate funding to meet the growing and ever-changing need for technology in our schools to keep our students competitive in the global market?

The word of the education funding taskforce was a great example to address education funding issues. When we reconvene to update our data we need to include technology and vocational education.

3. Early Childhood Education:

Alaska is one of only ten states that do not offer early childhood education for 3- and 4-year-olds. What are your thoughts about providing early childhood education opportunities in Alaska?

If we start a pre-K program, we should phase it in over a period of several years as we did for all day kindergarten programs.

4. Highly Qualified Staffing Needs:

What ideas do you have to help Alaska school districts attract and retain highly qualified and ethnically diverse teachers, principals and other professional staff?

There are a number of obstacles in the way for maximizing our potential to recruit. (1) the current retirement system (2) the federal social security offset provision, (3) declining teacher average salaries compared to other states.

5. Capital Needs:

The State of Alaska currently estimates that school districts need about \$1 billion this year to meet current requirements for new schools and major maintenance to existing facilities. Anchorage alone has \$800 million in identified needs (at today's costs) over the next ten years, but outstanding bonded indebtedness has become a concern to local voters. As a legislator, how would you propose that we address this need?

The Legislature needs to develop a 10 year major maintenance program. There should be an annualized funding approach that allows the districts to carry over funds to accumulate for larger more expensive projects. We must continue the debt reimbursement program. Possibly GO Bonds

6. Ideas for Improving Alaska's Public Schools:

Please discuss any ideas you have about improving Alaska's public schools or the way we fund them.

An education endowment program that is connected to production of natural gas and mining revenue streams.