

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE SURVEY

Name: HARRY T. CRAWFORD JR

District: 21

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?

Smaller class sizes in the beginning
grades to give students a more solid
foundation from which to build on.

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

We need to increase the foundation
formula so that school districts can
hire more teachers to get those early
age class sizes

- 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?

We need to enhance no-tech style
training and business applications for
students aiming for the workforce
rather than the University

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?

Students need more hands-on training on all types of technologies to give them more familiarity with the equipment and technology.

- 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?

I would like to provide 150% of the foundation formula to the school districts that hold class sizes down to 15 students for grades K-3 per student in K-3.

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?

Many 3 and 4 year olds are at risk to fall permanently behind if we don't have early intervention. We need to identify and provide early services to these kids.

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?

Job 1 is to repeal SB 141 and return to a defined benefit pension plan. We need to endorse some of our surplus which we have to fund education in the future!

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?

I would build new buildings with an eye toward less maintenance costs and more energy efficiency so that maintenance and fuel would be less of a concern.

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.

I would cut class sizes in the lower grades, hire more support staff to help in the higher grades and have more after school and weekend classes for at risk students and the non-traditional students!