

**ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE SURVEY**

Name: Sharon M. Cissna_

District: District 22

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?

I've fought to adequately fund education under current State laws. We must fight to alter No-Child-Left-Behind, or abolish those conditions impossible to adhere to in Alaska. State and Federal laws have added elements that bar building the positive qualities necessary to attract and graduate the state's future workforce.

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

The role of the Legislature regarding education is to provide the financial support and direction needed for education. There must be a greater balance and an adequate number of Legislators who value successful education and are willing to make changes in order to make that happen.

- 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?

Will Introduce; Program incorporating during the first few years in elementary school age-appropriate training in social life-skills to increase education social health. Improve health care to maximize student's ability to succeed academically. Have developed an intern program for students to conduct educational program in healthy activities for UMedFest.

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?

Our future possibilities were altered in the past several weeks. Internet appears to have established as a cost-effective tool for industry and our students must be given an avenue to fully learn these skills. The internet itself, can be an expanding force in education. Creativity and delight in learning are required now.

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 have supported and proposed funding to have adequate opportunities for our school children to learn how to use up-to-date technology in school.

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?

An excellent proposal.

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?

Reinstate loans with forgiveness when people stay and work in Alaska in education. Raise income and reinstate a retirement system that will compete with schools throughout the nation.

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?

Visiting four rural Alaskan communities one week ago, communities facing horrifying possibilities this winter, educators have proposals far beyond normal thinking. Combining health clinics and schools is one. Combining neighborhood centers, clinics, some other government services and schools would shrink the energy requirement footprint and allow communities to also expand efficiency to transportation requirements.

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.

Need greater integration between upper level high school students and the community/university/technical training organizations.

Need to expand the 'academy' concept from construction and building professions to social services and health professions so that those highly sustainable jobs can be filled by Alaskans.