

AHEA Candidate Questionnaire

Please respond promptly. Thank YOU!

AHEA—Alaska Home Educators Alliance
PO Box 140784
Anchorage, AK 99514-0784

AHEA—Alaska Home Educators Alliance
PO Box 140784
Anchorage, AK 99514-0784

Educational Improvement Plans

Some of your constituents would be interested in your answers to the following questions on the broader scope of education.

A1.] If you could make one change to education in Alaska, what would you do? (e.g.: improve school safety / increase parental choice / change graduation requirements / emphasize character development / increase technology opportunities)

A2.] How much do you estimate education would improve (graduation rate, college preparedness, college attendance, work preparedness, parent satisfaction, teacher satisfaction, or some other measure of educational performance)?

B.] Which of the following three choices is the best interpretation of the following state statute? (Circle one.)

AS 14.07.050 Use of Textbooks and Curriculum Materials: Textbooks for use in the public schools of the state, including a district offered state-wide correspondence study program, shall be selected by district boards for district schools. Nothing in this section precludes a correspondence study student, or the parent or guardian of a correspondence study student, from privately obtaining or using textbooks or curriculum material not provided by the school district.

1. That a student who uses privately-purchased materials may not be considered a full time student. (current interpretation)
 2. That the district must review privately-purchased materials for alignment to state standards and allow for their use.
 3. Other:
-

C.] Thousands of parents currently use their dividend check to pay for private / religious / home education. If a "child dividend" for children of educational age was found to be constitutional, would you support or oppose it? Support Oppose (Circle one.)

D.] Which of the following best describes your position on vouchers? (Circle one.)

1. The constitution is clear, and "no money from the treasury will be spent for the direct benefit of private, parochial or religious educational institutions" would prevent a voucher system.
 2. I believe that spending money on vouchers takes money from the public education system and would therefore oppose it.
 3. I believe that supporting choice in education through vouchers is a way to improve education.
 4. I would support vouchers but fear control over private education by the state.
 5. I haven't supported vouchers strongly in the past, but with graduation rates and college preparedness rates as low as they are, I am willing to look at it now.
-

E.] I would be interested in passing a law which would test whether vouchers are constitutional. YES NO (Circle one.)

¹AG Nordstrand Memo (9/20/2005) differs from the intent of the bill as presented by Sen. Dyson (2003 and reaffirmed as per his testimony at the State School Board meeting in 3/2008)

AHEA

The Alaska Home Educators Alliance (AHEA) is a group of concerned, homeschooling parents who are working for better performance, safety, and lower costs to educate Alaskan children. Our aim is to inform the public and public officials about issues which affect the education of the children in our state.

We hope you will take time to complete this questionnaire. Your response to these issues will be published on the AHEA website www.AHEAnow.org and will be sent to the 10,000+ voters who home school in Alaska.

Please circle the appropriate answer for each question, refold this page so our address shows, and drop it in the mail or answer our questions via email. Feel free to include comments addressing the questions on a separate sheet. **AHEA** would be pleased to hear from you.

If you have questions, email us at AHEA@AHEAnow.org or, if you would like us to contact you, please give your contact information here:

Your response by August 8th at noon is appreciated. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
The AHEA Board
PO Box 140784
Anchorage, AK 99514-0784

1. Over 10,000 voters in Alaska choose to homeschool. In June, the State Board of EED approved regulations allowing Alaskan children in statewide correspondence programs to have the same opportunities as the in-district students in the area of spending for Music, Art and PE. These regulations put new restrictions on in-district families that previously were only imposed on statewide families.

2. When privately-purchased curricula serves as the primary educational materials, current regulations require that four additional state fundable courses be used if a student will receive full time funding. Two must be core courses.

3. The restrictions mentioned in # 2 are based on Governor Murkowski's Deputy AG Memo of September 2005 on AS 14.07.050¹. (See footnote.) The sponsors of the bill state that this memo ignores the legislature's intent in 2002.

4. Alaska Independent homeschoolers enjoy the best homeschooling laws in the country (AS 14.30.010.10.(b)). Nationwide, there is no correlation between state oversight and homeschooling outcomes.

5. Homeschooling families like to be politically involved. Many of our members would be willing to help a candidate who supports homeschooling.

1. Would you support a task force that would work to restore curricular choice (that is aligned to state standards) to the district that serves the students?

Yes No Please call me.

2. Would you work with our families to guarantee that homeschool parents can use any materials which are aligned to state standards?

Yes No Please call me.

3. Would you co-sponsor legislation that affirms the original law and district processes of review / approval for use of privately-purchased materials?

Yes No Please call me.

4. Do you support the right for Alaskans to homeschool independently without government funding or intervention.

Yes No Please call me.

5. Would you like us to tell our member families you would welcome their help in your campaign?

Yes No Please call me.

¹ Comment #3—AS 14.07.050 Use of Textbooks and Curriculum Materials: Textbooks for use in the public schools of the state, including a district offered statewide correspondence study program, shall be selected by district boards for district schools. Nothing in this section precludes a correspondence study student, or the parent or guardian of a correspondence study student, from privately obtaining or using textbooks or curriculum material not provided by the school district.