



OUT BOULDER COUNTY

# 2023 School Board Candidate Questionnaire: Questions

This questionnaire was distributed to all the School Board candidates in the following districts: Boulder Valley, Poudre, St. Vrain Valley, and Thompson School Districts.

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, we cannot endorse any candidate. Rather, we work to understand and share information with our constituents about the candidates and their stances on topics that are important to our community.

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1. What motivated you to run for the School Board and what do you hope to accomplish, if elected?
2. Many historically marginalized students, specifically LGBTQ+, Latine, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color), and students with disabilities, experience more limited educational opportunities, disproportionately negative disciplinary decisions, and higher rates of bullying. What do you think is the best way to support these students and address differences in their treatment in schools?
3. Would you oppose any effort or policies to ban books that have LGBTQ+ or Black, Indigenous, Latine, Asian, and Middle Eastern characters, authors, or content?
4. Research demonstrates that zero tolerance discipline policies are often disproportionately used to punish BIPOC, Latine, and LGBTQ+ students. Some school districts across the country have moved away from punitive punishment in favor of restorative justice practices, which emphasize repairing the harm caused to victims and the community by offenses and involve working with the participants to foster dialogue to determine a path forward. Restorative justices consider wrongdoings an offense against relationships, rather than the state or school.



- a. Do you support restorative justice practices in schools? If so, how would you, as a board member, support restorative justice practices in the district?
  - b. What limitations do you see in non-punitive approaches to discipline?
  
5. Educational researchers for decades have identified opportunity and achievement gaps between white students and BIPOC students. There is data in CO that supports those findings.
  - a. What are the achievement gaps in your district and why do they exist?
  - b. What strategies and policies would you support to address these disparities?
  
6. As a board member how would you ensure that school administration and staff are correctly implementing bullying prevention policies?
  
7. Should charter schools be required to follow district nondiscrimination policies? How would that influence your decision about proposed charter schools in your district?
  
8. The Colorado State Board of Education recently approved accurate and inclusive Social Studies standards that fully include LGBTQ+ and BIPOC communities.
  - a. Do you believe that charter schools should be required to follow those standards?
  - b. What accountability measures would you support to ensure that schools, including charter schools, follow this policy?
  
9. Anything else you would like to share?