

**Eagle Forum of Alabama
2018 School Board Candidate Questionnaire**

Thank you for offering yourself for public service through elected office. Since only an informed electorate can make sound decisions, we ask you to state your positions so that we can distribute them to your potential constituents. Please indicate your position with an A (Agree) or D (Disagree) to the left of each question and sign below. If you wish to clarify or expand on any question, please do so with an attachment. Candidates must answer every question to complete the questionnaire.

Candidate Name Jessica Fortune Barker
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 Candidate for State Board of Education, District B

GENERAL Please provide a short statement of your basic philosophy regarding the purpose of education.

Public education is the foundation & building block for producing productive, contributing citizens to our economy. A solid base in education allows a child (student) the opportunity to gain knowledge & social skills that will grow with them into adulthood.

ACADEMICS

D 1. Do you believe schools and teachers should give primary emphasis to academic foundations (e.g. reading, grammar, spelling, arithmetic) and avoid social and emotional learning?

A 2. Do you support the use of intensive, systematic phonics to teach first-grade children how to read by the end of first grade?

A 3. Do you support local control of education with accountability through the local school board, rather than federal control exercised through federal and state bureaucracies and business partnerships?

A 4. Do you reject national high-stakes testing and imposition of national standards?

A 5. Given the fact that since the implementation of Common Core, student academic achievement scores in 2015 fell nationwide, but Alabama's scores plummeted from 26th among the states and rising to dead last, do you support replacement of the low trajectory Common Core State Standards Initiative (renamed Alabama College and Career Ready Standards) with proven best pre-common core standards as the framework?

A 6. Do you believe the purpose of teaching should be to equip students with a background knowledge of facts and thus a storehouse of information and understanding before they are expected to engage in the scientific reasoning or critical thinking that we want for all students?

A 7. Do you reject classroom instruction that offers a politically motivated and historically inaccurate view of America, limited constitutional government, or private enterprise?

A 8. Do you support elementary students learning history through stories of great events and heroes?

B 9. Do you support for Grades K-3

a. "Progressive" curriculum that uses sociological and progressive economic thought to groom children for participation in the collective like teaching about the job of health inspectors OR

b. Traditional curriculum with stories about pioneers, explorers, Native American history and culture, events in American history that provide role models and builds character and individualism

A 10. Do you support the teaching of abstinence as the most empowering choice for unmarried teenagers and as the only truly effective way to prevent sexually-transmitted diseases?

A 11. Do you support correcting fallacious or biased material in textbooks with supplemental online material or textbook inserts such as the one in the science textbooks that encourages debate about controversial theories such as macro-evolution or global warming?

A 12. Should junior high and high school English classes study novels that enable them to confront the timeless struggle between good and evil through classical literature or should they be required to read current novels, many of which are developmentally inappropriate, encourage sexual abuse and assault, and contain pornographic scenes?

GENERAL POLICY

D 13. Given that (1) Finland, rated the top education system in the world, does not start compulsory school attendance until age seven and that (2) research shows Head Start actually depresses academic readiness for some children while any advantage from Head Start is diminished by Grade Three, would you discourage increased funding and attendance for comprehensive Pre-kindergarten in Alabama?

A 14. Do you support using recommendations from regional workforce development councils to determine education opportunities for public school students?

A 15. Do you believe Alabama should increase the number of Career Coaches within schools to insure schools are responsive to local employers and to meet the employment needs of business and industry?

A 16. Do you oppose tracking students and directing them into specific career paths instead of giving them information to aid them in making their own career choices?

(A) A 17. Do you support the collection and maintenance of data including student health, performance, attitudes, behavior, and family on the State Longitudinal Data System or any similar system?

(B) A 18. Do you reject governmental efforts to regulate and/or control non-public schools and home schools or force such schools to operate using the same state curriculum standards and assessments?

A 19. Do you support an equity funding plan to make funding for all Alabama school systems the same that would take locally generated funds from one district to give to other districts?

A 20. Do you support the use of students' test scores based on student growth to determine a teacher's job performance and potential merit raise?

A 21. Do you support keeping an elected school board and the right of the school board to pick the State Superintendent of Education?

PARENTS' RIGHTS

A 22. Do you believe in the fundamental right of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children?

A 23. Do you support a school board policy allowing parents the right to inspect and review instructional materials and methods?

A 24. Do you believe parental consent should be required prior to giving information and care to students regarding sexuality and reproductive health?

A 25. Do you oppose the establishment of school-based health clinics, which may operate without parental consent or knowledge to perform examinations, provide immunizations and medications, and dispense birth control devices and abortion referrals?

A 26. Do you support a school board policy forbidding psychological evaluations, testing, treatment, or physical examinations of students without prior written parental consent?

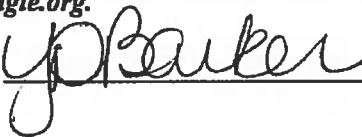
A 27. Do you believe the topics of homosexuality and alternative lifestyles should be excluded from the classroom and left for parents to address with their children?

A 28. Do you support the right of parents to homeschool their children?

A 29. Do you oppose requiring students to answer nosy questionnaires about sex, gun ownership, drugs, suicide, and family behavior without parental consent?

PLEASE RETURN BY March 20th to: Eagle Forum of Alabama, 4200 Stone River Circle, Birmingham, AL 35213. For clarification or questions, call 205-879-7096. You may also e-mail back the questionnaire to deborah@alabamaeagle.org.

Candidate Signature



Date 3-21-18