

Jillian Balow

Dear Candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction,

Several of our members have asked where each of you stand on Early Childhood Education. Our candidate survey did not cover this important topic; and we feel that its important to let Wyoming citizens know your thoughts. No doubt you are tired of answering questions at this stage of the race, but if you would take a few minutes to respond to the following questions, our members would greatly appreciate it. Feel free to hit 'reply' to this email and just type in your answers.

1. Which of the following do you prefer as wording for Wyoming's school attendance law?

A) The parent or guardian of any child resident in this state shall cause the child to be instructed in subjects commonly and usually taught in the public schools of the state of Wyoming. To accomplish this, a parent or guardian shall either cause the child to be privately instructed by, or at the direction of, his parent or guardian; or enrolled in a public school or public charter school, including an online or virtual charter school or private or parochial school during a period in each year equal to that in which the public schools are in session; there to conform to the attendance policies and regulations established by the board of trustees, or other governing body, operating the school attended.

B) Every parent, guardian or other person having control or charge of any child who is a resident of this state and whose seventh birthday falls on or before September 15 of any year and who has not yet attained his sixteenth birthday or completed the tenth grade shall be required to send such child to, and such child shall be required to attend, a public or private school each year, during the entire time that the public schools shall be in session in the district in which the pupil resides; provided, that the board of trustees of each school district may exempt any child from the operation of this article when...

ANSWER: I prefer (A) or a similar iteration because it places parents as the most important decision makers about their child's education.

2. Do you believe government should tax all Wyoming citizens to pay for early childhood education and daycare for some families?

Daycare **no**

Preschool **no**

3. Oklahoma has offered universal early childhood education for 15 years, spending the same amount per child as subsequent grade levels. Yet with this expenditure, fourth grade reading scores have declined. Please circle your word choice in the following:

Answer: If elected Superintendent of Public Instruction, I will work to increase/eliminate government involvement in early childhood education.

I oppose overreach by state and federal government into early childhood education, i.e. universal preschool. I will continue to streamline current services and dollars that enhance

successful local efforts in early education. My work over the past two years has resulted in savings to taxpayers and increased collaboration in local communities to address the needs of young children, especially those at-risk. I support the continued levels of funding for early childhood programs including: child care subsidies, Special Ed services for young children, WIC, WY Quality Counts, and more. These programs should never be mandated for any child or family. I oppose universal preschool and believe that parents are a child's first and most important teacher.

4. Will you contact our members of Congress urging them to work to pass the Parental Rights Amendment as the 61st legislature did?

http://www.parentalrights.org/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={DE675888-E60A-4219-8A5E-000083244D13}&DE=

5. Do you support a parental rights statute in Wyoming similar to this:

http://webserver1.lsb.state.ok.us/cf_pdf/2013-14%20ENR/hB/HB1384%20ENR.PDF

Answer: I am not well-versed enough in #'s 4-5 to answer today and I understand the timeline for getting this information out to your membership prior to August 19. These are complex issues that face us as parents, educators, Wyomingites, and leaders. I promise to uphold my convictions and support parental choice/rights and local control as I research and weigh these important topics.

We appreciate your time and wish you the best in the last stretch of this important race!

Sincerely,

Wyoming Citizens Opposing Common Core