

NASB State Board Candidate Questionnaire 2026



Taylor Royal – LD 18

1. **Local Control** - With so many decisions from the legislature impacting local boards, NASB is interested in your view of local control. Regarding education, what decisions do you feel are best made at the school board level vs. the State level?

Local boards are best positioned to handle curriculum implementation, personnel needs of admin / staff / teachers, and local calendar setting. I think the local boards know the community values/culture/demographics best. I think the State can lead the way (or be pushed by local communities) on overall academic standards.

2. **School Funding** - Every year the legislature makes decisions about the way schools are funded, making predictability of funding a challenge. What changes and/or adjustments, if any, do you think the Legislature should address?

We need to commit to a stable, multi-year funding model than making annual adjustments. Given the budget challenges, I do think it's all hands on deck to put Nebraska on a better fiscal trajectory. Perhaps there needs to be a better "calendar" to align goals and funding. School budgets, legislative budget, property valuations, etc.

3. **Role of Education in the State** - What role do you think PK-12 Education plays in the future success of the State and your community?

I want Nebraska to attract and retain families. Foundationally, that's education, infrastructure, healthcare, public safety. Those categories should be held in the highest regard and invested in.

4. **Educational Workforce** - Educational workforce continues to be a challenge across the State from teachers to bus drivers. What would be your plan to address this challenge?

Teachers are among the most dynamic professions, and we must prioritize competitive compensation, mentorship, and specialized pathways to address teacher shortages across the state. Changes to certification processes and pushing teaching opportunities down to high school could have a positive effect on building new teachers.

5. **Mandates** - School districts continue to be challenged by the increasing unfunded mandates put upon them by the State and Federal government. What is your response to mandates and the State's role in them?

Would need more education on this specifically, but at the very least mandates should be regularly reviewed, audited, and /or have a sunset to ensure these policies are having the intended effect.

Final Thoughts

I value decision making as close to constituents as possible. I don't believe one-size-fits-all directives have the intended consequences a policy maker usually desires. I'm excited to listen and advocate for positive educational outcomes in Nebraska.

How can voters contact you?

Taylor.j.Royal@gmail.com