



EDUCATION ALLIANCE  
OF COLORADO

# Questionnaire Results

## Cherry Creek School District School Board 2021 Candidates

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**Do you agree or disagree with the idea that parents, not systems or institutions, are best positioned to select the school or educational services that best meet the needs of their children? Why or why not?**

**Jennifer Gibbons:** Parents are absolutely best positioned to select the school or educational services that best meet the needs of their children. Systems and institutions do their best to serve our children, but parents need to be involved, advocate and speak up when that system has failed. Most children fit in the educational system “box”, but many do not, and parents need to know they have many choices when it comes to schools and programs in which to enroll their children. As a board member, I would like to ensure parents know their choices.

**Kelly Bates:** No response

**Schume Navarro:** No response

**Kristin Allan:** No response

**Bill Leach:** No response

**Jason Lester:** No response

**Should students in your school district have the unrestricted ability to attend a charter school or other public school of choice if their families so choose? Why or why not?**

**Jennifer Gibbons:** I am fundamentally in favor of parents making educational choices for their children. Ideally, the neighborhood schools would fill the needs of the children in the neighborhood, but it doesn't always work out that way, and parents need to be able to make alternative choices for their children when necessary. CCSD allows parents to choose out of neighborhood schools for a variety of reasons, which I believe is the right thing to do. I know families who have changed schools for a variety of reasons, for more academic rigor, less academic rigor, better sports program, better arts programs, more services, location (closer to work), etc. Parents know best, and they should be educated about the choices they have.

**Kelly Bates:** No response

**Schume Navarro:** No response

**Kristin Allan:** No response

**Bill Leach:** No response

**Jason Lester:** No response



## Do you believe that public charter schools or other choice schools should have the flexibility to operate autonomously within the bounds of state law, including through waivers of certain local district or board policies? Why or why not?

**Jennifer Gibbons:** Because charter schools currently have the flexibility of maintaining autonomy within a school district through waivers, they can offer a choice that a typical public school cannot. As long as charter schools are performing at or above district standards, I think they should maintain autonomy.

**Kelly Bates:** No response

**Schume Navarro:** No response

**Kristin Allan:** No response

**Bill Leach:** No response

**Jason Lester:** No response

## If elected, how do you plan to support both new and existing public-school options—charter, magnet, online, specialty, etc.—in your school district?

**Jennifer Gibbons:** If I am elected, I would like to support our charters and other speciality schools in the same manner I would support each Cherry Creek school. CCSD has a healthy amount of options for kids to achieve including an innovative campus where they can get training in various trades. I will always support choice in education and encourage innovative additions to CCSD. If there is a charter school application for a school where I can see an obvious need filled, I would support it.

**Kelly Bates:** No response

**Schume Navarro:** No response

**Kristin Allan:** No response

**Bill Leach:** No response

**Jason Lester:** No response

## As a school board member, how will you balance the needs and priorities of the district itself against the needs and priorities of families, students, and communities?

**Jennifer Gibbons:** My priorities will always begin with what is best for students then go from there. I will be dedicated to excellence for our children and prioritize needs according to what is needed in order for the students to think, to learn, to achieve and to care. The biggest needs will get the most attention. A partnership between families and communities is critical for improvements, and I think a healthy collaboration between community, teachers, parents and administration could lead to innovative solutions to problems. I would love to lead a new charge of unity and respect where many parents feel there is currently a feeling of division in the district.

**Kelly Bates:** No response

**Schume Navarro:** No response

**Kristin Allan:** No response

**Bill Leach:** No response

**Jason Lester:** No response