



**The Coconino Coalition for Children and Youth exists to provide leadership in developing community-wide strategies that enhance the well-being of children and youth in Coconino County.**

CCC&Y is non-partisan. Visit [www.coconinokids.org](http://www.coconinokids.org) to view candidate responses.

## CCC&Y 2018 Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Kathy Hoffman      Office: State Superintendent of Public Instruction

1. What do you think the two most pressing issues are for youth and their families?
  - a. Children and families in Arizona face a myriad of issues stemming from lack of investment in our communities and public schools. I believe the two most pressing issues facing Arizona families are lack of access to affordable, comprehensive healthcare and limited options for affordable housing. To help students overcome the barriers that stem from these issues, I believe we need to invest in public education. When we fully invest in public schools, children receive not only a well-rounded education, but also access to healthcare, mental health wellness services, and career readiness programs. Strong public education is the key to building a brighter future for Arizona's children and families.
2. What do you believe the role of elected officials is in their communities when it comes to serving and advocating for children and youth?
  - a. Elected officials should be advocates for all our children and families. We need to listen to the needs of the community and act according to their best interest. Elected officials serve as liaisons between communities and policy decisions. As State Superintendent, I will use my role to advocate for policies that fund our public schools and prioritize the needs of our families and children. My role will include lobbying lawmakers to invest in education and to put forth pro-education policies as well as encouraging the public to work with their representatives to enact change.
3. Within the duties of your elected office, how can you support the children and families of our community? If elected, how will this be expressed in your agenda?
  - a. Everyday that I am State Superintendent, I will work on behalf of our children and families to ensure that they have access to a fully-funded and equitable public education system. I plan to make the Department of Education a more functional and transparent organization to ensure that it is working on behalf of our schools, children and families. I plan to use a variety of means to make the Superintendent's office more accessible for the public including press conferences, videos, social media presence, and continued meetings with communities across Arizona. Most importantly, I will be a positive voice for our public schools to highlight the amazing work being done within public education so that lawmakers are encouraged to invest in the our schools and our future.

4. How would you, as an elected official, support an equitable school system for ALL students, cradle to career? As 90% of human brain development happens by age 5, please additionally share your thoughts on early childhood education and its role in the educational system.
  - a. As State Superintendent, I plan to work closely with our governor and lawmakers to push for policies that invest in K-12 public education as well as expanding preschool programs across the state. Participation in preschool programs results in improved reading, writing, and math skills during elementary school. The educational and economic benefits of expanded preschool and all-day kindergarten have the greatest impact on parents and children with the most serious educational and financial need, but benefit all of Arizona's parents and children. With the benefits as clear as they are, Arizona cannot afford to remain among the states with the lowest rates of preschool enrollment.
  
5. As childhood abuse, neglect and foster care continue to be major issues in Arizona, what prevention and trauma response strategies do you support for our child welfare system, the Department of Child Safety and/or our local communities? How would you propose using local, state and federal funds to improve outcomes for youth experiencing foster care or additionally, work toward prevention of child abuse in our communities?
  - a. Our teachers and schools are often the first-line of defense in noticing and reporting children who have suffered trauma or abuse. Often times, our teachers offer support and coping strategies to young victims of abuse to help them move forward in their educational and professional goals. However, unlike mental health care and trauma professionals, our teachers do not have formal training in these areas of abuse, trauma, and recovery. Our children and schools must have full-time counselors and social workers available to meet the needs of our most vulnerable students. I believe funding for these positions can come from a mix of local, state and federal funding as well as grant programs. However, it would require the Arizona legislature to find a sustainable revenue source for K-12 public education. I will work closely with DCS and trauma advocates to ensure that our lawmakers are passing policy that addresses the need for professional trauma identification and counseling in our schools.
  
6. Lastly, please feel free to share any further information with voters.
  - a. I entered into politics when I saw that our elected officials were failing to meet the needs of my students, colleagues, and families. I saw crumbling classrooms, old resources, my friends and colleagues leaving the profession, and our families left with limited options. I know that Arizona is ready to elect teachers and pro-education candidates down the ballot because we are ready to start prioritizing our children, our families and our communities.