

QUESTIONS TO ASK

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

☀️ Philosophical Questions (aka: How They Think)

- What is your philosophy of special education?
- Do you believe inclusion benefits all students? Why or why not?
- How do you define success for a student with an IEP?

📖 Training and Awareness

- How does the school board ensure that teachers and staff are trained in autism, ADHD, behavior, trauma, and mental health?
- What does “least restrictive environment” mean to you?
- Do you think the district has done enough to support staff who are working with students with complex needs?

💰 Budget Questions (Yes, Ask About Money)

- When unanticipated needs come up during the school year—like a new student with a high level of need or staff absences—how should the district adjust the budget?
- What are your priorities when balancing the needs of special education with other budget items?

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Parent Concerns and Relationships

- If a parent brought you a concern about a systemic issue in special education, what would you do?
- What can the school board do to improve the often-contentious relationships between special ed parents and school staff?
- What role should the board play in helping families feel heard and supported?

Data, Discipline, and Disproportionality

- How can we ensure discipline policies don't unfairly impact students with disabilities?
- What would you do if data shows certain students (say, those with IEPs) are disproportionately suspended, restrained, or not graduating on time?

Inclusion and Placement Options

- How does the district determine placement decisions when families request alternatives like hybrid or independent study?
- What are your thoughts on increasing access to general education classrooms for students with IEPs?
- How can we better support inclusion so it's not just a buzzword on a slide deck?