



Congratulations on your candidacy for the Arizona State Legislature. Stand for Children is a non-partisan, non-profit education advocacy organization. Our mission is to ensure all Arizona students graduate from high school prepared for, and with access to, college and career opportunities. We do this by educating and empowering community members, advocating for effective policies, ensuring strong policy implementation, and supporting courageous leaders at the ballot box.

In the 2018 election cycle, Stand for Children will consider endorsing candidates aligned with our mission and current policy priorities. In the questionnaire below please provide responses indicating your position on our key focus areas. Please limit your overall responses to 6 pages.

Thank you for your willingness to share your perspectives and preferences regarding public education.

#### CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidate's Name: Roberto Sanchez Garcia

Office Sought: AZ State Representative LD 27                      Legislative District (LD): 27

Party Affiliation: Democrat

E-Mail Address(es): [sanchezforarizona@gmail.com](mailto:sanchezforarizona@gmail.com)                      Phone: (602) 518-2262

Alternate Campaign Contact: N/A                      Campaign Website: [www.sanchezforarizona.com](http://www.sanchezforarizona.com)

Education (Please note highest degree achieved): Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Previous Elected Office(s) Held: N/A

Current Profession: Consultant (Kida Kare Pediatrics & Family Kare) - Self-employed

Please describe why you are qualified for the office sought:

I am grateful for all the opportunities I have had as the result of living in Arizona, particularly in the South Mountain and Laveen areas. I feel a kinship with my neighbors in LD 27 and understand the needs of our community. I have a strong desire to help effect positive changes and growth in my local community, as well as the state of Arizona. Implementing change requires strong leadership skills, which I believe I have, and having a voice in the legislature will enable me to represent the needs of my community. Education is my top priority, and I want to help ensure our education system is effective and properly funded.

## QUESTIONNAIRE

1. What are your top three priorities for public education in Arizona?

Funding Education properly and effectively educating our kids to prepare them for the future. I think this involves innovative thinking and considering best practices of successful education systems worldwide. If we keep doing the things the way we have been, we will continue seeing the same dismal results.

2. What state policy change(s) do you believe could allow more Arizona children attend a quality school, be taught by an effective teacher and be provided with opportunities to succeed?

First of all, we have two formulas, one that looks at Public schools and another that looks at Charter schools. There has to be a single formula to ensure fairness and equality so that both public and charter schools are operating on a level playing field.

Second, we rank among the lowest in the nation in per pupil funding and need to find ways to increase this ratio.

3. What role should the state play in holding schools accountable for student academic growth and achievement?

The states role first should be to provide necessary resources to schools in need. Once schools have the necessary tools to succeed our school boards should keep school districts accountable by providing good policies and making sure effective administration is in place.

Currently, Stand for Children Arizona is focused on several policy areas: Early Literacy and Grade-Level Reading, English Language Instruction and School Finance. The following questions address those priorities.

#### Early Literacy & Grade-Level Reading

Based on the Spring 2017 statewide assessment, 56% of Arizona students cannot read on grade-level by the end of third grade, meaning only 44% of students are reading on grade-level. Scores have improved overall, but with the statewide goal of 72% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders reading on grade-level by 2030, we have a long way to go. When looking at the data by school and region, it shows the improvement is concentrated in a small percentage of schools while many Arizona schools struggle to increase students' reading ability (see attached data sheet). Reading proficiency at this point in a student's academic career is vitally important. Research shows failure to read proficiently by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is linked to ongoing academic struggles, failure to graduate high school on time, and it dramatically reduces and creates barriers to entry into a postsecondary institution or career opportunities.

4. Would you support providing targeted funding and evidence-based programs, such as reading coaches and summer school, to improve the reading proficiency of Arizona students?

Absolutely! Every intervention is important for struggling students as well as high achieving students.

5. Would you support state funding for early learning opportunities such as full-day kindergarten or quality pre-school for 3 and 4-year olds?

Yes. Pre-school and kindergarten is the foundation of every student education. With a strong foundation every child can succeed.

### English Language Learners (ELL)

Current state policies regarding ELL students were adopted in response to a lawsuit and limited by voter-protected requirements. They have been in place for 12 years. These policies use a one-size fits all approach, unlike any other education policy. During the 2018 legislative session, Stand moved H.B. 2435 through the process. The bill allowed for flexibility at the local level while preserving voter mandates and it provided for needed transparency and accountability. HB 2435 passed unanimously out of the House and Senate Education committees. Unfortunately, the bill failed to get a final vote in the last days of the session as time ran out.

6. Would you support legislation similar to HB 2435 to change current ELL instructional requirements in order to provide local flexibility, increased accountability and transparency and more efficient use of funds?

Yes. Every child should have the opportunity to be in a mainstream class room with guided assistance for our ELL'S at certain time of the day

7. Would you sign a pledge to support similar legislation, if elected?

YES

8. If not, what policies would you support to improve ELL instruction?

I will sign because it's a good start for our ELL'S My ultimate goal is to do away with the 4-hour block



## School Finance

Arizona's current school finance system is over 30 years old. It was designed to support local school districts funded by their taxpayers with the state providing what could not be raised locally. Since that time, Arizona's public-school system has expanded to include a myriad of choices: open enrollment, charter schools and Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (ESAs); many students don't attend their local community school. The current system is outdated and continues to increase reliance on state funding. State policies which continue to limit the ability to raise revenue have resulted in the chronic underfunding of public schools. Short-term solutions and targeted investments fail to address the underlying problem. Stand for Children advocates for sufficient funding for all Arizona students, regardless of where they live or what type of school they attend.

9. What would you do or support to increase public school funding to at least the national average?

I would work with the majority party to help educate them on the importance of funding effectively and in the right areas to gain progress in our education system.

10. How do you plan to grow state revenue, establish new revenue sources and provide additional resources for education?

Education is one of my priorities when I get into the legislature. I will work diligently to ensure resources are identified and fought for as well as allocated in effective areas.

Below, please include any additional information you believe Stand for Children should know about your priorities:

I would like to find ways to take away a "we vs. Them" approach when we are in discussions about Charter and public schools. At the end of the day, they are all of our kids!