



# NEW MEXICO BUSINESS COALITION

## 2021 Albuquerque Public Schools Board Candidates Survey

Q1

Contact Information

**Name:** Ali Ennenga

Q2

Please list your campaign website or other online sources where voters can learn more about you and your positions.

[www.aliforkids.com](http://www.aliforkids.com) [www.ali4kids.com](http://www.ali4kids.com)

Q3

What APS district are you running for?

District 3

Q4

As a school board member, what will be your top priority?

We need to improve the graduation rates, make sure we have staff - teachers and educational assistants, and look at the budget to make sure the money goes where it should. In order for local businesses to succeed, our students need to be successful. Our economy will thrive when students have a quality education.

Q5

When voting on an APS policy, what do you think is the most important thing to consider?

The most important thing to consider is - how does this affect our students. Then, we have to look at the bigger picture of how does this affect our parents and teachers, then how does this affect our businesses and economy. Education is linked to every aspect of our life and we need to always keep students first, then look to the bigger picture.

Q6

What experience do you have in creating budgets and what will you prioritize in the APS budget?

I own my own small business and I work within a discretionary budget on a daily basis. My personal budget is not as big as APS, but the principles are the same - spend (taxpayers) money wisely and with discretion. I think we need to start with finding where the money is actually going (is it going to the student?) and what we need to pare down to make sure that money goes where it belongs. Reallocating money to programs that work, and eliminating the programs that don't work is a great first step.

Q7

Please provide your position on the APS Superintendent's contract being tied to student outcomes and explain why you feel that way.

I think it is a good idea to have the contract tied to student outcomes - like graduation rates. If there are no student outcomes, why are we paying the Superintendent the rate he/she is being paid? We had a superintendent who made an exorbitant amount and did nothing for student outcomes. Why are we still at the bottom of the list when it comes to student proficiency rates? Accountability and transparency are lacking and very much needed in the APS school districts and in APS administration.

Q8

What factors should play into a decision on closing a school?

First, I would work with the Board to make sure that it is the best decision for the students. However, I think many issues and factors need to be looked at before a school closes, such as student enrollment, staff requirements being met, location, neighborhood, building capacity, and others factors, to name a few. I would look at the entire school dynamics to ascertain if a school should be closed and students and staff integrated into other surrounding schools.

Q9

Do you support or oppose mandating that children are taught Critical Race Theory (CRT)?

Oppose

Q10

What do you think is the most important skill(s) a child should learn in school?

Basic skills of reading, writing and math.

Q11

Should teachers be held accountable for students' academic achievement or lack thereof? Why or why not?

I believe that teachers should be held accountable for student achievement. The current system is not an accurate assessment of teachers and I think it needs to be overhauled so that teachers have merit pay for bringing student achievement to higher levels. Students also need to be held accountable for attendance, in-class work, testing on the content, homework, etc.

Q12

How should the Capital Master Plan reflect the continuing decline of APS enrollment?

The Capital Master Plan should reflect the decline in students enrollment by the scaling back on construction of new buildings, and improving the current buildings. Also, facilities that are not in use or are empty, should be closed, repurposed, or sold with a possibility of consolidating smaller schools, creating an effective use of the fiscal monies allotted.

Q13

As an APS Board member, please explain your position in regards to involving business community members in advising how best to prepare students for future careers.

I think we need to bring back VoTech High Schools. Also, looking at community schools that involve the business community is a great step. Again, all of these ideas and programs need to be looked at and either incorporated further or dissolved.

Q14

Please provide details of any arrest record you may have.

None.

Q15

Please describe to voters why you are best candidate to fill a position on the Board of Education.

First and foremost, I want our children to succeed and receive the highest quality education that we can provide for them. They are and always will be my top concern. I have a master's degree in Education, and I have been in the classroom. I know what students and teachers are facing and what they need to be successful. I have worked for several non-profit organizations and have set and worked within discretionary budgets. I have the unique opportunity to be a voice on the Board for the students of APS. I will never stop fighting for our children to get the highest quality education we can give them. If we were achieving the goals set for the district, we would have a much higher graduation rate, more students would be proficient in math and reading, and we would have the quantity and quality of teachers we need to promote and accomplish all of these goals. Our children deserve a Board that will move them forward and I will always put our children first.