

Name: Laretta Harris

District: Albuquerque

Position: 2

Please answer the following to the best of your ability within 150 words or less.

1. What is motivating you to run for the school board?

As a parent, grandparent and retired educator I want to see children in APS grow and thrive in their learning.

2. What will your priorities be as a school board member?

- a. Working to make community schools a viable option.
- b. Fighting for Mill Levy and Bond elections to fund our facilities.
- c. Increase CTE and Technology classes.
- d. Recruiting and retaining the best and brightest educators.
- e. Increasing the number of security aides to improve safety.

3. What have you done in the past to help your community thrive?

I've been an educator for 26 years.

4. How have you previously advocated for students and educators in your community?

I worked to stop the over-testing of students on the PARCC test.

5. How did your educational experiences shape you, and what lessons will you take with you from those experiences?

The most successful schools I've been to and worked in were extremely supportive of educators. I would like to see respect for educators return.

6. Have you ever worked as an employee in public education? If so, how did your school board affect you? What lessons will you take from your experience into this position?

Yes, I've been a teacher of math and technology, mostly in middle school.

7. New Mexico has the lowest high school graduation rate in the nation. What specific steps will you take to address this problem?

I will work to recruit and retain the best educators and expand the CTE classes.

8. New Mexico ranks 49th in 4th-grade reading and math scores. What specific steps will you take to address this problem?

The reduction of over-testing and keeping qualified expert educators in the classroom should resolve this problem.

9. How will you advocate for both the students and the employees of the public education system in your role?

I will work to inform the legislators that can make a real difference in our schools to act responsibly and fully fund education in New Mexico.

10. Think New Mexico, a non-partisan think tank, released a study in 2017 which suggests that the percentage of a state's education budget that makes it to the classroom, as opposed to administrative costs, is related to student performance. Do you agree? Will you advocate for an increased percentage of the budget going to the classroom? Why or why not? If so, how will you address the issue?

I can't take responsibility for the past actions, but I will commit to spending the most money possible directly on the classroom.

11. New Mexico is combatting a "teacher shortage." A recent study by NMSU said New Mexico's "teacher attractiveness score"* is 2.18 on a scale of one to five. What will you do to increase this score and make sure these vacancies are filled by qualified individuals as quickly as possible?

Increased educator salaries should help immediately. I hope to be a supportive voice for the classroom and respect for those in teaching and learning.

12. How can you make your school board an example of excellence for the other boards in the state?

By working with families and the community we can provide the best quality education to our kids.

**According to [NMSU](#) "Teacher Attractiveness Score" takes into consideration compensation, working conditions, teacher qualifications, and teacher turnover.*