

Richland One School Board Candidate Questionnaire

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this candidate questionnaire.

GROW is a non-partisan, pro-public education 501(c)(4) organization dedicated to improving educational outcomes for children in Richland County School District One (Richland One) through education, advocacy, and leadership accountability.

An informed public is integral to a successful election. In that spirit, please answer the following questions. GROW reserves the right to publish candidate responses, in whole or in part, with attribution. If a candidate does not respond, GROW reserves the right to share a "Did Not Respond" statement.

All responses must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, September 22, 2024.

Thank you for your time and for running for office.

Email *

jldevine1@gmail.com

Name *

Jamie L. Devine

What seat are you running for? *

At-Large

Seat 2

Seat 4

What in your background leads you to believe you would be an effective school board member? What skills * do you bring to the office?

I am uniquely qualified to be an effective school board member because of my extensive experience, dedication and personal investment in the district. In addition to serving locally, I have been elected by my peers as secretary/treasurer, president-elect and president of the South Carolina School Boards Association. I also have been elected to the Consortium of State School Boards Associations Unified Board Alliance, which is the national affiliate for SCSBA. My service on both the state and national level allows me to gain knowledge and resources to bring to our local board. I have a proven track record of navigating complex issues and advocating for the best interests of students, families, staff and the community.

As a parent of a recent graduate and children in the district, I bring a unique and personal perspective that aligns with the concerns and priorities of fellow parents. I have deep roots in the community and am committed to the district's growth and success and will continue to be an invested advocate for continued improvement in education and student achievement.

On a scale of 1 to 10, how well do you think Richland One is fulfilling its mission of educating students? *

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Failing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Excelling

What are the top three issues that the school board needs to address and why? *

1. Student Safety
2. Student Achievement
3. Supporting Staff

I believe the work is far from over as we continue to fight for our students. I have been dedicated to ensuring that every student has access to the highest quality education. My focus has always been on student achievement, student safety and supporting staff to include fostering a safe, innovative and nurturing environment. In closing, I want to ensure we create an equitable education for all students in our District, improving upon student outcomes and overall community well-being.

According to the most recent test results, only **23%** of 8th grade students met or exceeded math expectations and only **45%** met or exceeded English Language Arts (ELA) expectations. With so many of our students failing basic reading and math, it's no surprise that **39%** of Richland One high school graduates are not career or college ready. *

In light of these results, is the current superintendent meeting expectations? Please explain how he is or is not.

The South Carolina Ready Test is a completely different measurement from the college and career readiness test. It measures different things so there is no correlation between what an eight grader scores on an ELA or math and whether or not they are college and career ready.

The State average for 8th grade students who met or exceed math expectations is 30.3% and 50.3% for ELA. Although our scores are not where I would like to see them, we recognize that due to Covid, 8th graders statewide saw a decrease in scores.

With the challenges our students are facing everyday (high poverty/ homelessness, community violence, special education needs, etc.) , these test results are only a snapshot of what our students can do. State Standardized Test are utilized for accountability at the federal and state levels, but as educators will tell you, formative assessments help measure progress in real time. This is why the SC Legislature has worked over the last several years to reduce the number of standardized tests and move towards allowing more formative assessments that measure growth.

Our current administration has placed an emphasis on college and career readiness and growing our students to their potential and their dreams. We have implemented Summer SOAR and other summer camps to address student achievement and I am confident that we will see an increase in these scores.

Per the State Inspector General's report, Richland One "mismanaged" \$31 million related to the Vince Ford * Early Learning Center. This mismanagement led the [State Superintendent](#) to elevate the district from "fiscal watch" to "fiscal caution."

What would you recommend as the course of action for this particular project?

The early learning center has been discussed in our strategic plan since 2014 and funding was approved during the 2022 school year. I acknowledge that construction started before the necessary permits were obtained. Although it's common practice to allow school districts to advance construction projects without a formal permit as reported and documented by the state Inspector General's report on page 21, I will ensure the district will comply with securing necessary permits for future projects. Additionally, as a board member I will continue to work together with the various entities to ensure the district remains in compliance with all regulations.

Additionally, the board has quarterly work sessions that are open to the public to ensure transparency. At these work sessions, we discuss topics in detail to get an in-depth understanding of the specific issues. I will continue to encourage the public to participate in these work sessions to help build trust and confidence in the board.

As a school board member, will you pledge to: *

	Yes	No
make your decisions in an open and transparent manner that is compliant with FOIA laws?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
govern by the established school board policies?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
prioritize dollars going into the classrooms versus administrative overhead?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
set measurable goals and expectations for the superintendent regarding student academic achievement?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What kind of actions do you support to hold the superintendent accountable for meeting goals and expectations? *

Evaluating the Superintendent is one of the most important functions of a school board. An effective evaluation is a continual monitoring process that takes into account the performance of the entire system as well as specific goals and objectives that the Board and Superintendent have set for the year. The Board and the Superintendent will review and adopt reasonable, measurable goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan for the district. It is understood that the goals and objectives for the Superintendent will reflect those of the Strategic Plan, as well as the Superintendent's responsibilities as outlined in the contract of employment and generally accepted standards for Superintendent leadership.

The evaluation:

1. Identifies the mutually agreed upon performance standards, goals and objectives for the Superintendent;
2. Provides the Superintendent with clear, specific and actionable feedback relative to previously agreed upon performance standards, goals and objectives;
3. Is based on agreed upon results indicators and commensurate evidence of attainment;
4. Provides an opportunity for the Board and Superintendent to reflect on and improve their relationship based on shared expectations for student, staff and system performance.

Is there anything else you want to share with GROW regarding your candidacy?

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to these questions. As I stated earlier the work is far from over. I am running for re-election to continue advocating for the success, safety and well being of every student in our district. With your support, we can build on the progress we've made and ensure that our schools remain places of excellence and opportunity for all.

This form was created inside of Watershed Consulting Group.

Google Forms