COAL COALITION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERS

Chicago Board of Education
Candidate Questionnaire
for the
General Election - November 3, 2026

The purpose of this candidate questionnaire is to ascertain each candidate's qualifications and preparedness for, and commitment to, participating as a member of the Chicago Board of Education and for President of the Board.

The Coalition of African American Leaders (COAL) encourages an informed community towards casting an informed vote. The goal is to seat a professional, qualified, independent and engaged school board, responsible to the community, that has a laser focus on providing the best K - 12 educational experience for all of the children of Chicago, regardless of family income or zip code; the high quality educational system our children deserve.

INSTRUCTIONS

Please complete and return this fillable pdf candidate questionnaire for the position of Chicago Board of Education member and president, responding to all questions. There are a few yes/no questions which include space to expound on your response. Once completed, please return via email to: publicpolicy@coalchicago.com. **This questionnaire should be returned no later than end of day on September 21, 2026.**

We welcome any query regarding this questionnaire or individual question(s) which will help you provide your best response. Please contact Education Committee co-chairs:

Dr. Kimberly Dulaney at 312.287.4571 / readme4000@aol.com
or
Principal Gerald Morrow at 773.593.5428 / gjmorrow86@gmail.com

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Candidate Information

Name on Ballot: Connie Anderson

School Board District: 10B

Home Address 2804 E. 87th St.
Chicago IL. 60617

Employer/Your Title Crane & Norcross /Commercial & Industrial Paralegal

Phone 773-306-8205 **Email** info@connie4schools.com

Candidate signature attesting to the truthfulness, accuracy, and authorship of this Questionnaire.

09/21/2026	Connie Anderson	
Date	**Print**	**Signature**

[Please feel free to attach primary campaign literature, bio or vita]

Campaign Information

Campaign Manager PENDING

Phone **Email**

Website WWW.CONNIE4SCHOOLS.COM

a. Have you held or run for public office before, and if so, what office[s] with what results?

NO

b. COMMUNITY. In what community roles do you currently serve? Or in what capacity have you served the community in the past? Have you been appointed to any public committees, commissions, task forces?

I have been an active member of community organizations including the Bessemer Park Advisory Council located in the 7th Ward, serving on the South Chicago Quality-of-Life Plan (QLP) Education Committee, and as a founding member of the United Neighbors of the 10th Ward, an independent political organization (IPO).

As a leader, I have been a steadfast advocate for working class families across Chicago ' s far Southeast Side communities. From working to preserve and maintain our public parks and green spaces on the park advisory council, to leading a collaborative process to safeguard the health, wellbeing, and affordability for residents in South Chicago through the Quality-of-Life Plan, I have worked tirelessly to improve the lives of working class Chicagoans.

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c. Please list your top three contributors who have donated $1,000 or more, and include the corresponding amounts as reported on your D-3 form (if applicable):

Contributor	Amount
CTU - INKIND GIFT	
OSA - INKIND GIFT	

d. Who has endorsed you and what are your political/stakeholder alliances (if any)?

CTU
CCCTU
OSA
UNITED NEIGHBORS OF 10TH WARD
UNITED WORKING FAMILIES
ILLINOIS FAMILIES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Candidate's Plans and Goals for the School Board

e. Why are you running for *this position*? What expertise do you bring to the board? What makes you the best candidate for *the School Board*?

My candidacy for the Chicago Board of Education in District 10B is driven by a singular, unwavering mission: to serve as a fierce advocate for every CPS student, ensuring they receive the high-quality, equitable education they deserve. Central to this mission is the fight for equitable funding; As a CPS parent, I fought within the education system for my daughters to be able to attend a school where all their needs would be met and where they would be supported to achieve their full academic potential. I found that even within a “good school” I had to constantly fight for my daughters' education. While I am incredibly proud of the success that my young adult children have achieved, no parent should have to fight for what should be a basic right - a world-class education for all of Chicago’s children.
I believe that budgets are moral documents that must reflect our commitment to closing the achievement gap and providing every neighborhood school with the resources necessary for success. I will work to implement a weighted funding model that accounts for the specific economic advantages and disadvantages of a school's location, ensuring that those in historically overlooked communities receive the subsidized support required to thrive.

True equity in education means meeting the basic needs of our students before they even enter the classroom. I am committed to bargaining for the common good to ensure that safety, housing, food, and healthcare are guaranteed for all families, as these are

f. Please describe your Educational agenda.

Strengthen neighborhood schools - I would work to ensure every Chicago neighborhood has a strong, well-resourced public school that families can trust. That means investing in teachers and staff, arts and enrichment, safe learning environments, and the programs that make schools thrive—rather than relying on school closures as a first response to challenges.

Make special education truly equitable and student-centered - Students with disabilities deserve timely evaluations, appropriate services, qualified staff, and inclusive learning environments. I would push for greater accountability, transparency, and resources so that families are not forced to fight the system to receive what their children are legally and educationally entitled to.

Build a transparent, accountable, and democratically governed CPS - I would work on establishing meaningful opportunities for parents, students, educators, and communities to participate in major decisions. I would advocate for transparent budgeting, measurable goals, accessible public data, and clear accountability for district leadership. Our schools should be governed with communities, not simply for them.

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ACCOUNTABILITY / TRANSPARENCY

1) We believe that it will be important for you to communicate with District constituents on a monthly basis. Communications should include, but not be limited to, updates to inform and receive feedback on upcoming CPS votes and initiatives, as well as progress monitoring. Will you commit to implementing some form of monthly communications for your constituents?

YES ☑ **NO** ☐ **(Please provide an example)**

2) What measures do you want to put in place to promote transparency in the school board system?

For major decisions, I think establishing a minimum public review period and providing opportunities for families, educators, LSCs, and community members to ask questions before the vote is reasonable.

3) What methods will you put in place to understand the interests / positions of your constituents, to ensure your Board votes align with your constituents, and not political funders or special interests? **(Please be specific)**

4) What measures do you suggest the school board implement to ensure that CPS is held accountable and is responsive and transparent to school stakeholders?

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5) Will you support a third-party independent audit of Chicago Public Schools? **YES** ☐ **NO** ☐
(and why?)

Possibly, depending on the company and if its truly independent.

6) Recognizing that parents of CPS students are a critical portion of your constituency, what will you do to build and nurture a relationship with parents in the District?

I've started building relationships many years ago through community engagement and I will continue building these relationship.

BUDGET / FINANCE

7) In what ways should the school district engage Springfield for funding? In what ways will you engage external partners to assist with funding CPS initiatives?

Reaching across the table is one of the many ways to engage with Springfield. I believe we should have those hard conversations, listen, understand but steadfast. Do not accept crumbs when you need an eighth of the pie.

8) What are your ideas to address the School District's consistent $500-$700 million budget gap?

Review large contracts and district level spending.

9) How will you hold CPS accountable for ensuring equitable funding for all schools? And how should the Board / CPS prioritize to ensure funds are allocated where needed?

Staying in connection with my schools and measure the improvement.

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10) What are your ideas for **funding** the mental health needs of students, faculty, and staff?

Fully funded and sustainable schools is the answer. Counselors and therapist should be a standard, a resource not a bonus.

EDUCATION / STUDENTS

11) Achievement Gap: The data show persistent disparities in measures of educational performance among subgroups of students, especially groups defined by socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity and gender. How do you plan to address/close the intransigent achievement gap for African American students?

I have over 50 schools. As a board member, I started visiting my schools and talking with the administrators. I want to understand what is going well and what needs to go better.

12) Opportunity Gap: The disparities in providing access points and multiple pathways to position students for post-secondary success. How do you plan to address/close the opportunity gap for African American students?

Here what I know. Until our schools on South & Westside are fully funded, we haven't won.

13) What are your thoughts and/or ideas on **policies** to address the mental health needs of students, faculty, and staff?

Fully funded and sustainable schools is the answer. Counselors and therapist should be a standard, a resource not a bonus.

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14) How will you work towards all schools providing recess and physical education equipment, healthy food offerings, and classes in the arts, shop, and technologies, as well as foreign languages?

My absolute mission is to assure our kids have the opportunity to compete with their counter parts. my kids on the Southeast side should be able to compete with schools like Walter Payton, Lane Tech, Skinner North & West. In order for this to be possible, we must fully fund our schools.

15) The elected representative school board legislation includes the establishment of a board-level *Black Student Achievement Committee*, to develop actionable strategies to close the achievement gap for Black students. What actions will you take to ensure that this committee is staffed appropriately to give it its best chance of achieving measurable improvements in the education of Black students, system-wide? And, importantly, will you commit to the African American community having a strong voice / autonomy in the selection of Black Student Achievement committee members? **YES** ☐ **NO** ☐ **(and why?)**

Absolutely! As a black mother, I know all too well how black children are pushed to the side when opportunities arise.

GOVERNANCE

16) What are your thoughts on the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Career and Technical Education (CTE), Computer Science (CS), and other emerging technologies in education for students, faculty, and staff?

AI can be a great resource tool if used properly. CTE is necessary more now than ever. College isn't for everyone. I truly believe that this is an opportunity for any one person to build a career. As a former robotics coach STEM & CS should be a standard in every school

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17) Do you think the school board should have autonomy to override LSC decisions that are made at the local level? **YES** ☐ **NO** ☐ Please explain your answer with an example.

I believe there should be a check and balance system

18) LSCs are responsible for principal selection; should CPS be required to obtain LSC review to remove a principal? **YES** ☐ **NO** ☐ **(and why?)**

I believe there should be a check and balance system whether its the district or the network head.

19) What are your thoughts on establishing an independent review board for terminations within CPS?

I think this is one way to have a check and balance system. this could be a positive reinforcement

OPERATIONS / POLICY / PERFORMANCE

20) What is one challenge or area of growth you see within CPS? What are your solutions for addressing this challenge?

Creating an independent board was a start. I think

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21) What are your thoughts on the financial and academic oversight of school choice, and do you believe guardrails should be put in place? If so, why?

I believe public funds should stay in the public sector.

22) What are your thoughts on school closings and consolidation?

I absolutely do not agree with the notion, that closing and consolidating schools is the answer.

23) What criteria should be used to identify which schools should be considered for closure/consolidation?

Here what I know, closure/consolidations should be the last result with community engagement & agreement.

24) What existing CPS policies would you like to change, or what new policies would you like implement?

The Board is one voice. I would like to fully fund our neighborhood schools.

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CHARTER SCHOOLS

25) Funding Equity: Chicago Public Schools provides funding to both district-operated and charter public schools. Do you support funding parity between charter public schools and district-operated schools? **YES** ☐ **NO** ☐ **(and why?)**

I believe private entities were created for a reason. Unfortunately, it was at the detriment of many black Americans.

26) Equitable Access to Resources: Do you believe funding for student support services should be allocated equitably to all students, regardless of whether they attend a district operated or charter school? Yes or No If a school accepts public funding for a student should it also be responsible for continuing to serve that student the entirety of the year? **YES** ☐ **NO** ☐ **(Please explain in detail.)**

I believe in equitable access to resources. I don't believe in funding private entities and lining the pockets of the private entity stakeholders.

27) Parent Choice and Educational Options: Well-to-do families have the resources to afford the type of education they want for their children. Many Black and Brown families who may be unable to afford private or parochial schools, choose charter schools because they believe those schools best meet the educational, social, emotional, or cultural needs of their children. What role do you believe charter schools should play within the Chicago Public Schools system, and how would you ensure families continue to have meaningful educational choices?

I believe our kids should have choice. However, not at the backs of public funds. I don't believe public funds should be used in private entities. If charter schools want public funds, they should be administered by the public administrators.

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28) Charter Renewal Stability: School board meetings can involve lengthy discussions on charter renewals. What are your thoughts on charter school renewals, including multi-year renewals?

I believe charter schools should be held to the same high standards of accountability, transparency, equity, and student outcomes that we expect from district-operated schools. Decisions about renewal, expansion, closure, or transition should be based on evidence—not politics or pressure from operators.

29) Accountability and Student Outcomes: Should charter schools and district-operated schools be evaluated using the same academic, financial, operational, and student-outcome standards?

YES ☑ **NO** ☐ Where might they differ?

I believe a broader or more specialized curriculum is where public & charter schools should differ.

30) Long-Term Vision: What is your vision for the relationship between Chicago Public Schools and public charter schools over the next five years, and how would your policies support improved outcomes for all Chicago public school students?

My vision in the next five years regarding the relationship between CPS and public charter schools is to assure if public funds are used CPS is Co-administrator.

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Thank You

for your response

COAL COALITION
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About COAL
COAL is an umbrella organization founded by 13 of Chicago's historic African American mens clubs. COAL's overarching mission is to identify, examine, illuminate and find resolution to issues impacting the greater community. We strive to use our collective experience, expertise and resources to improve the quality of opportunity, quality of preparedness and the quality of outcomes (expressed as 'quality of life') for our community.

What We Believe
The Coalition of African American Leaders believes that it is important to examine the critical issues confronting the African American community where injustice, inequality and the absence of access and opportunity continue to prevail, thereby negatively impacting us as a people. COAL is an assemblage that advocates and organizes for appropriate and responsible public policy change, system behavior change and equality of opportunity. We aim to achieve for all of our people the fullness of the life experience without any form of racism or exclusion as a deterrent. We believe we must prepare ourselves for the opportunity of this full participation, thereby achieving the necessary education and training to participate.

Founding Member Organizations
100 Black Men Of Chicago ■ Chicago Assembly ■ Chicago Connection ■ Druids Club ■ Frogs Club ■ Lunch Bunch ■ New Committee ■ Original 40 Club Of Chicago ■ Rat Pack ■ Royal Coterie Of Snakes ■ Saints ■ Sigma Pi Phi Beta-Boule ■ UIC Male Forum / Chicago Good Health Group

WWW.COALCHICAGO.COM publicpolicy@coalchicago.com
COAL is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization incorporated in Illinois, USA.
Donations are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by U.S. law.