

Deja B. Jackson

What is the biggest issue facing JCPS right now, and how would you address it?

The biggest challenge facing JCPS right now is its financial situation and the impact those budget challenges have on students, teachers, staff, and families.

It's clear the district is facing serious financial pressures, but rebuilding trust has to be part of the solution. Our community deserves stronger financial oversight and a clearer understanding of how taxpayer dollars are being spent. We need transparency, accountability, and a commitment to making sure resources are reaching students and classrooms. When people understand where their money is going and see results, trust follows.

What specific changes would you push for at JCPS if elected?

I would push for greater transparency and more community involvement in decision-making. Too often, families, educators, and community members feel like major decisions are made without enough public input. The people closest to the work often have valuable perspectives that can help identify challenges and improve outcomes. As a board member, I want to make sure policies are informed by the people most affected by them before decisions are made, not after.

What is your connection to the district?

I'm the parent of a JCPS student and the daughter of a JCPS graduate. I've also spent my career working with nonprofit organizations that partner closely with JCPS to support students and families. JCPS has been a part of my life from multiple perspectives, and I understand the important role it plays in our community.

What relevant experience in education do you have?

I am a community engagement professional with nearly 10 years of experience in nonprofit leadership. Throughout my career, I've focused on bringing people together, listening to community voices, and building programs that make a difference.

While I am not a classroom educator, much of my work has involved partnering with supporting students and families, and working alongside education leaders. The common thread throughout my career has been making sure the people most affected by decisions have a seat at the table. That's the approach I would bring to the school board.

What relevant business, budgeting, or financial management experience do you have?

I have served on several nonprofit boards and continue to serve in board leadership roles today. One of a board member's most important responsibilities is ensuring the organization is managing its resources wisely. That means reviewing budgets, asking tough questions, understanding financial reports, and making sure funds are being spent effectively. I would bring that same commitment to accountability, oversight, and responsible stewardship to the JCPS Board of Education.

JCPS has faced major budget challenges. What would you do to improve financial oversight and rebuild trust with taxpayers?

Transparency is the first step. The public should not have to search for information or learn about major financial decisions after they've already been made. Taxpayers deserve clear and timely information about where money is coming from, how it's being spent, and how funding decisions affect students and schools.

I also believe board members need enough time, information, and resources to make informed decisions. Better transparency and stronger oversight will help rebuild confidence and trust in the district.

How would you measure whether the superintendent is doing a good job?

The superintendent should be evaluated against clear goals and measurable outcomes. Of course, academic performance matters, but success goes beyond test scores. We should look at whether students are reading and doing math at grade level, graduating prepared for college or careers, improving attendance, and developing the skills they need to succeed after high school. I would also look at how effectively the superintendent engages the community, builds trust, and manages district resources. Strong leadership requires both educational results and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

What do you believe JCPS should do to improve student achievement?

The first step is understanding where students are struggling and identifying the barriers that may be standing in their way.

That means listening to teachers, school staff, students, and families, while also examining the data to see what's working and what isn't. Student success can't be measured by test scores alone. We should also be looking at attendance, literacy,

graduation rates, college and career readiness, and other indicators of long-term success. As a board member, my role would be to ensure the district sets clear goals, measures progress, and remains accountable for helping all students succeed. Is there anything else you want voters to know about you or your campaign?

Public education has always been important in my family. As the daughter of an educator and of a JCPS graduate, I understand how life-changing a strong public education can be. I'm running because I want to help ensure JCPS is the best it can be—not just for my child, but for every child in Jefferson County. Our schools help shape the future of our community, and the decisions we make today will impact generations to come. I believe students, families, teachers, and staff deserve leaders who will listen, lead with transparency, and keep students at the center of every decision