

Education Position - League of Women Voters Grand Traverse Area

Revised June 2011; June 2023

The League of Women Voters of Grand Traverse Area supports that every child attending the schools that comprise the Northwest Education Services area will acquire 21st century knowledge and skills that they will need in their communities and workplaces.

I. Curriculum

A. Curriculums will include the core subjects as outlined in the Michigan Merit Curriculum, K-12.

B. Curriculums in the 21st century must include: Global Awareness, Civic Literacy, Critical Thinking, Problem Solving Skills, and Life Skills such as: Leadership, Ethics, Personal and Social Responsibility, Self Direction, and People Skills.

C. Curriculums should support students being able to understand, utilize and evaluate current technologies and sources of information.

D. There should be an established district- approved process to be followed by parents and community members who have questions about the Board-approved curriculum.

E. Curriculums should include awareness of the contributions and rights of women and minorities.

F. Curriculums should encourage all students to be educated to the best of their abilities.

II. Assessment

A. A student assessment program must have a balance of high quality standardized tests along with effective classroom evaluations and observations that inform instruction. The scope of assessment should include the skill level in core subjects, the demonstrated use of critical thinking and life skills, facility with technology for research, and the ability to communicate ideas and information.

III. Administrative and District Leadership

A. Administrators must articulate clearly the goals to be attained; serve as problem solving models; and demonstrate their ability to provide necessary equipment and training for successful teaching and learning; and seek regular input from students, staff, and citizens.

IV. School Climate

A. The school facility should be inviting, orderly, safe, secure, clean, well-maintained and equipped with adequate resources and

B. The school climate should provide a caring, encouraging environment; promote a sense of belonging and self-esteem; strive for effective communication, collaboration, and interpersonal relationships between staff and students; and foster mutual cooperation and safety. The school should respect and

value individual differences, keeping in mind its diverse student population, encourage critical thinking and have high expectations for all.

V. Teachers

A. Teachers will be given class assignments for which they are highly qualified.

B. Teachers will have adequate time and space to prepare lessons and confer with colleagues on a regular basis. Involvement in professional development should be ongoing.

C. At regular intervals, proficiency in teaching practices and content knowledge will be assessed on course content, and a written copy of the results provided followed by consultation. Standardized testing scores, where applicable, will be no more than fifty percent of the evaluation.

D. Teachers will participate in setting and achieving school-wide goals.

VI. School Funding

A. Schools must be funded in a manner that is adequate and equitable to carry out their mission.

B. The school funding inequity between school districts should be actively addressed by the state legislature. The per pupil funding gap between the highest and lowest foundation grants needs to be eliminated by regular "equity payments" in the school funding budget until equitable funding is achieved