



2023 Issue Paper: Education

Priority Statement

The priorities for education are to review and update the Prototypical School funding model to meet the needs of today, consider legislation to provide more accountability for charter schools, and fully fund Special Education.

The LWVWA *Program in Action* lists the following positions on K-12 public education:

- The state has the responsibility to determine uniform educational standards and to provide ample and equal opportunity for education. (K-12-1)
- The state has the responsibility for amply funding both education and those social services needed to ensure that every child, regardless of race, color, gender, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability, is ready to learn and safe in his or her educational environment. (K-12-2)
- All programs mandated by the legislature should be fully funded by the state. (K-12-3)
- Citizen participation should be encouraged at all levels. (K-12- 8)

During the 2023 legislative session the League will support a review and update of the Prototypical School Funding Model (PSFM) to meet the needs of today. Legislation adopted in 2011 implemented the PSFM, providing new staffing allocations. However, funding levels for most staff positions have remained the same since 2011. 2022 legislation did increase the formulas for physical, social, and emotional support by increasing the number of school nurses, social workers, psychologists, and counselors in the PSFM over three years. More needs to be done.

As we have done over the last several years, the League will support full funding of Special Education. Most school districts must use levy dollars to provide the support these students are entitled to. This is the responsibility of the state, not local taxpayers.

During the past year, Summit Charter School was found to be illegally hiring teachers without certification. In three articles on KUOW with interviews with parents, students, and teachers, it was revealed that Impact Public Schools did not provide the services required for special education students and English language learners. It also improperly enrolled under-age children in kindergarten. For these reasons we will be looking for a bill to improve accountability for charter schools.

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