

LWV positions on education

1. the primary responsibility for education rests with the states,
2. an equitable, quality public education is critical for students,
3. the federal government should be primarily responsible for funding programs mandated by the federal government,
4. a basic role of the federal government in funding education is to achieve equity among states and populations on the basis of identified needs
5. the federal government is responsible for
 - a. providing a series of general standards which the states and local districts can adapt,
 - b. creating national assessments that permit individuals and schools to evaluate their performance,
 - c. giving money to states and local districts through both competitive and non-competitive grants to address inequities.
6. believes that quality education for all children in Oklahoma depends on adequate financing and supports
 - a. the state assuming the major responsibility for financing common schools,
 - b. the state assuming responsibility for equalizing financial resources among school districts,
 - c. the major portion of financing common schools move away from a base of ad valorem taxes,
 - d. continued improvement of assessment practices,
 - e. the removal of constitutional limitation on millage,
 - f. broad based sources such as income and sales tax used to provide funds,
 - g. removal of loopholes in tax laws including the exemptions from property taxes,
 - h. the requirement that each school district vote the maximum millage,
 - i. consideration of formulas other than Average Daily Attendance (ADA) for state aid.
7. believes that all schools should deliver a basic curriculum that prepares all students for the future. The basic curriculum should be specific enough to ensure that all students have a grounding in the subject matter, but flexible enough to allow for individual students to choose additional courses that address their needs, interests and career goals.
8. supports mandatory kindergarten for all children by the state. It also supported special education including services for gifted children.
9. believes that improved financing, accountability of expenditures, and more efficient financial procedures are the keys to providing quality higher education in Oklahoma. It believes that the state government should assume the major responsibility for financing state institutions of higher learning.
10. believes that the boards of higher education should be restructured to provide better governance of the system. The coordinating board, the State Board of Regents for Higher Education, should remain a constitutional board.
11. believes that vocational-technical education should play a larger role in the story of total education. Counseling in career education needs emphasis, and greater opportunities for youth and adults in vocational-technical education need to be provided.