

06 - Education

We believe that an excellent, quality public education, preschool through post-secondary, with equal access for all, is fundamental to maintaining a healthy democracy. "It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provisions for the education of all children." *The Washington State Constitution*

We call for:

- Affordable access and full funding of all basic, gifted, vocational, technical, alternative, special education, ELL (English Language Learners), and other state/federal programs and mandates;
- Certificated and classified employees' salaries, cost of living increases and retirement and health care benefits equal to those of other professionals of similar experience and backgrounds to attract/retain quality public school employees;
- Funding for smaller class sizes (P-12) based on effective student teacher ratios;
- Schools that are free from weapons, violence, bullying, harassment, retribution (from staff and students), drugs and alcohol, and through counseling, education and enforcement on these issues in a safe and healthy environment;
- Full inclusion of all students into the school environment regardless of race, ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic status or disability;
- School counselors, librarians, and nurses sufficient to serve the needs of every student throughout the school day;
- Full funding of Head Start and Early Childhood Education and Assisted Programs (ECEAP);
- Affordable access to quality Post-Secondary education;
- The inclusion of music, fine arts, civics and physical education in the Basic Education Act;
- A curriculum that is rigorous, comprehensive, and historically and scientifically accurate at all levels.
- Math instruction that includes arithmetic fluency and critical thinking skills;
- Instructional freedom that is student-centered within the curriculum;
- Public education employees' rights to organize, engage in collective bargaining, and strike without fear of reprisal or replacement;
- A new, stable funding formula for public schools and capital projects;
- Parental participation that supports student learning;
- Full funding for school transportation and on-site, after-school programs;

- 42
- 43
- 44
- 45
- 46
- Appropriate funding and curriculum for comprehensive, medically accurate sex education that shall cover, but not be limited to, matters of sexually transmitted diseases, family planning, the cost of raising a child, and the responsibilities and obligations of being a parent;
 - Providing nutritious meals in public schools.

47

48 **We oppose:**

- 49
- 50
- 51
- 52
- 53
- 54
- Charter Schools and vouchers;
 - The commercial exploitation of students;
 - Linking military recruitment to educational funding;
 - Organized prayer in public schools;
 - “No Child Left Behind”;
 - Basing teacher pay solely on student test scores.