

Amend the Education Platform Addressing the Academic Achievement Gap

WHEREAS, in today's K-12 education institutions many students and ethnic minority students are faced with cultural marginalization and academic isolation, and for students who are able to maneuver the academic challenge quite often it is at the expense of their cultural identity, self esteem and mental/psychological well-being; and

WHEREAS, in response to this crisis a Multi-cultural Education Think Tank (METT) was created by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction as an alliance of the Asian Pacific Islander American, African American, Hispanic, Native American and low socio-economic communities in pursuit of an equitable and culturally competent education system to address the Academic Achievement Gap; and

WHEREAS, the METT proposes steps to create an equitable and culturally competent education system that honors all students in a holistic manner – accounting for their various world views, learning styles, multiple intelligences, and cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, strategies for addressing the achievement gap are: changed beliefs and attitudes, cultural responsiveness, greater opportunities to learn, effective instruction and increased family and community involvement;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington State Democratic Party supports the METT recommendations to address the Academic Achievement Gap and enhance the Washington State Student Goals as follows:

1. Read with comprehension, write with skill, and communicate effectively and responsibly in a variety of ways and settings *that respect and value the diversity among all people.*
 2. Know and apply the core concepts and principles of mathematics, social, physical, and life sciences; civics and history; geography; arts; and health and fitness *in ways that are culturally inclusive.*
 3. Think analytically, logically, and creatively *in a cross cultural and appropriate manner*, and integrate this diverse experience and knowledge to form reasoned judgments and solve problems.
 4. Understand the importance of work and how performance, effort, decisions *and effective personal communication with diverse people*, directly affect career educational opportunities.
 5. *Understand, accept, and demonstrate the value of various cultures and heritages; become responsible and respectful citizens in multicultural settings; and use one's cultural knowledge as a foundation to achieve personal and academic success.*
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45 Submitted by the delegates of the 4th Congressional District and the Yakima County
46 Democratic Convention to the Washington State Democratic Party for consideration at
47 its June 3, 2006 convention in Yakima (Date Submitted 4/8/2006).

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49 The Washington State Democratic Party at its State Convention on June 3, 2006 in
50 Yakima referred this resolution to the WSDCC Resolutions Committee for review at its
51 September 9 - 10, 2006 meeting in Ellensburg.

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53 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee recommended a "No Pass" on this resolution at its
54 September 10, 2006 meeting in Ellensburg because the Washington State Democratic
55 Party Platform can not be amended by resolution.

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57 The WSDCC passed this resolution at its September 30, 2006 meeting in Tacoma.