

## EDUCATION

Part A. – Adopted: 1970 Amended: 1980

Part B. – Adopted: 1972 Amended: 1976, 1990, 2007

### – POSITION IN BRIEF–

Support goals and objectives in public education that provide the opportunity for the student to acquire basic skills, develop academic competency, and develop attitudes of good citizenship with its rights and responsibilities.

Support justifiable proposals for funding those districts whose boards actively endeavor to achieve quality education, alleviate racial imbalance, maintain responsiveness, and develop administrative effectiveness and community participation.

### – FULL POSITION –

#### A. Goals and Objectives of Education

1. To provide the opportunity for the student to acquire basic skills and develop academic competency.
2. To develop attitudes of good citizenship with its rights and responsibilities.

#### B. Financing Local Education

LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale has adopted goals it considers essential for a program of quality education. Adequate financing of local education is a component in achieving these goals. The LWVCS is prepared to support justifiable proposals for funding those districts whose boards actively endeavor to achieve quality education, to develop community participation and administrative effectiveness, to maintain responsiveness, and to promote racial balance. Budget planning and physical facility planning should be considered in evaluating any proposal brought before the electorate.

LWVCS accepts the following criteria by which the League can evaluate a local district's proposed revenue increases and bond issues. In evaluating school district's election issues we judge that efforts to achieve these criteria deserve support.

##### 1. Budget and Funding

###### a. Community Participation

The school board should provide avenues for community participation in establishing educational goals and determining needs for funds and methods to achieve them. Public participation should be responsible, representative, and advisory. Final responsibility and accountability rests with the board. The school board should seek participation from all spectra of the community, and discourage domination by special interests. Public records should be readily accessible.

b. Administrative Effectiveness

The following are considered indicators of effectiveness:

- 1) Program of regular internal evaluation of teachers and principals
- 2) Long-range planning of the resources and instructional program of the district
- 3) Effective use of personnel and all available resources
- 4) Equalization of per capita expenditures, with provision for flexibility at individual schools and provisions for meeting special needs
- 5) Responsible fiscal management

c. Responsiveness of School Board

The school board should balance responsiveness to community expressions with responsibility to sound educational goals. The school board should execute past commitments unless circumstances change significantly, and it should regularly review its board policies. The school board should actively encourage open communication channels with staff, parents and the community.

d. Educational Goals

The district's educational program and long-term plans should recognize and promote the goals of academic skills and self-development.

e. Local Impact

Consideration should be given to the financial burden on the local taxpayers.

**2. Physical Facilities – Planning and Use**

a. Community Participation

The school board should provide avenues for responsible public participation in determining the physical requirements of the district, its future needs, and the methods to meet them. The school board should seek participation from all spectra of the community and discourage domination by special interests. Public records should be readily accessible.

b. Administrative Effectiveness

This criterion refers to effective use of facilities, effective analysis of existing and future needs, and development of plans to meet them (sentence amended in 2007).

The following are considered important indicators of such effectiveness:

- 1) Long-range planning, including regular reviews of school enrollment and projections, demographic trends, economic and industrial trends.
- 2) Close cooperation with municipal planning departments to insure a sound school environment and interaction with municipal planning and development.
- 3) Maximum use of existing facilities, including community use of schools.
- 4) Adequate maintenance of existing facilities.

c. Responsiveness of School Boards

The school board should balance responsiveness to community expressions with responsibility to sound educational goals. The school board should carry out past commitments unless circumstances change significantly. The school board should actively encourage open communication channels with staff, parents, and the community.

d. Racial Balance

Building programs and attendance patterns should further LWVCS goals of promoting racial balance in the public schools and of providing quality integrated education for all children.