



## 2019 ISSUE PAPER: EDUCATION

### Position statement

Ensure the State continues fully funding education. Support student health and safety legislation.

LWVWA positions on Education are:

- The state has the responsibility for amply funding both education, and those social services needed to ensure that every child is ready to learn and safe. (K-12–2)
- All programs mandated by the legislature should be fully funded by the state. (K-12–3)
- Maintenance and operation costs of local school districts should be fully funded by the state. The state should also contribute to the costs of in-service training. (K-12–4)

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For the last 13 years, LWVWA has been a partner with NEWS (Network for Excellence in WA Schools) in the McCleary lawsuit against the state over ample funding of K-12 education. By 2018, the state had finally provided billions of dollars of new funding, and the Supreme Court relinquished its jurisdiction over the case on June 7, 2018. NEWS will continue as an organization to ensure that ample funding is enforced.

### Summary of Issues for the 2019 Legislative Session

During the 2019 legislative session we will be watching for corrections/additions to the recent funding plan addressing these issues:

- special education funding
- additional support staff (school nurses, counselors, family and community engagement coordinators)
- mental health and school safety support
- inequities such as regionalization pay and local levy caps
- additional professional learning days

The above items are included in OSPI's (Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction) proposed budget. OSPI also proposed a capital gains tax, half of which would buy down the state property tax and the other half would pay for K-12 priorities.

The Senate Education Chair has indicated her intention to introduce legislation to address school safety and student health in a "holistic, comprehensive and common-sense manner." We will support this endeavor.

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