



Positions, Areas of Interest, and Issues
March 2008

1. PUBLIC EDUCATION

a. Afterschool/Extended Day

- i. Support, expand, and improve access to quality before- and after-school programs.

b. Arts

- i. Support, expand, and improve children's access to quality arts and cultural programs.
- ii. Support, expand, and improve activities that prepare teachers to incorporate the arts into the curriculum of other academic subjects to supplement and engage student learning.

c. Bi-lingual Education Language Acquisition

- i. Support, expand, and improve language acquisition programs to provide students with limited English language proficiency (LEP) equal access to educational opportunities, allow LEP students to acquire a full command of the English language, and employ students' native languages to help them master challenging academic standards in all subject areas, and that involve parents in planning, implementation, and evaluation.

d. Civil Rights/Equity

- i. Support efforts to provide educational opportunity to all students and to close achievement gaps regardless of race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, language, or disability.

e. Early Childhood Education

- i. Support, expand, and improve access to quality early childhood education.

f. Education of the Whole Child

- i. Support, expand, and improve resources to ensure that schools give every child access to a rich array of subjects and address children's basic emotional and physical needs.

g. Family Involvement/Partnerships

- i. Support, expand, and improve school-linked parent resource centers.
- ii. Support, expand, and improve methods to encourage teachers to engage parents.
- iii. Support, expand, and improve parent involvement policies in state legislation.
- iv. Support, expand, and improve efforts to create effective and accountable parent involvement provisions in state regulations and guidance.

h. Funding (Chapter 70 Reform)

- i. Support, expand, and improve efforts that ensure public funds are used exclusively for public schools.
- ii. Support, expand, and improve efforts to increase funding to provide quality education for all students.

i. School Governance

- i. Support, expand, and improve opportunities that welcome parents in the school.
- ii. Support, expand, and improve opportunities for parents to become knowledgeable about the governance and operations of schools.
- iii. Support, expand, and improve opportunities for parents to participate in school-based decision-making.

j. Special Education

- i. Support, expand, and improve programs and funding to provide every child with a free and appropriate public education.

k. Teacher Quality/Qualifications

- i. Support, expand, and improve programs that recruit, develop, and retain highly qualified educators.

l. Testing/Accountability

- i. Support efforts to facilitate the use of multiple assessments for evaluating student growth and performance, and decrease the emphasis on high-stakes testing, while maintaining accountability for student achievement.

2. SAFE AND NURTURING ENVIRONMENTS

a. Bullying

- i. Support initiatives that address the prevention, intervention, and elimination of bullying and that foster a safe and supportive school climate.
- ii. Support policies and programs that teach respect for diversity.

b. Comprehensive Health Education

- i. Support, expand, and improve comprehensive health education in schools.

c. Environmental Health and Safety

- i. Support, expand, and improve efforts to protect children from toxic exposures that cause preventable illnesses and disabilities.
- ii. Indoor Air Quality/School Construction. Support, expand, and improve efforts to maintain and modernize school facilities.

d. Health Care Access and Quality

- i. Insurance. Support, expand, and improve health insurance coverage for children in low-income families.
- ii. Oral Health. Support, expand, and improve children's access to dental health programs.
- iii. Quality Health Care. Support, expand, and improve quality health care for children.

e. Mental Health

- i. Support, expand, and improve facilities for mental health and measures for broader education in this field.

f. Nutrition/Wellness/Physical Activity/Obesity Reduction

- i. Support, expand, and improve child nutrition, health, and wellness programs.
- ii. Support efforts to provide adequate time and opportunity for physical activity to promote fitness in all schools and recess in all elementary schools.
- iii. Support and improve efforts that limit significant advertising to children, particularly related to the promotion of unhealthy foods and drinks.

3. COMMUNITY

a. Citizenship

- i. Support, expand, and improve opportunities for civic engagement.

b. Climate Change

- i. support, expand, and improve understanding for conservation of natural resources.

c. Consumerism

- i. Support efforts to protect children from exploitive marketing through advocacy, education, and collaboration.
- ii. Support, expand, and improve efforts to inform parents on media and technology safety issues.

d. Parks and Recreation

- i. Support and improve protection and maintenance of parks and recreation areas and expand access to nature, parks, and recreation areas.

e. Public Health

- i. Support, expand, and improve necessary public health and welfare services for children, youth, and families.

f. Voting

- i. Support, expand, and improve efforts that give citizens a better understanding of voting rights and encourages them to exercise the right to vote.