

National and Indiana LWV Positions on Education Summer 2016

LWV of the US (LWVUS) supports public education for all (view at www.lwv.org):

- **From the *Principles*:** “The League of Women Voters believes . . . that every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all.”
- **From the position on the federal role in public education:** “The League of Women Voters believes that the federal government shares with other levels of government the responsibility to provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12. A quality public education is essential for a strong, viable, and sustainable democratic society and is a civil right.”

These statements provide general guidance for the League’s work on education, focusing on education as a civil right, on access to education, and on the general importance of education for a democratic society.

LWV of Indiana (LWVIN) also has positions on education (view at www.lwvin.org):

These deal mainly with public funding, advocating for adequate spending by the legislature for schools and detailing state responsibilities. They also include **opposition to** “the diversion of public funds to nonpublic schools, for example, through **vouchers, tuition tax credits, tax deductions, or choice scholarships.**” In recent years, such diversions have been widely approved by the Indiana General Assembly.

Early in 2016, LWVIN approved this general position in support of public schools: **League of Women Voters of Indiana supports a free, publicly-funded, nonsectarian system of schools serving all the state's children from pre-school through 12th grade.**

Now, LWVIN wants to learn whether there is statewide consensus regarding mandatory high-stakes testing in public schools. Thus, the study materials for fall and winter 2016-2017 are being sent to every local League.

Note: Check your local records! Your own League may have education positions, as well.