

## **“Public Education is a Public Good”**

### **Potential Local Education Advocacy Topics**

Consider the following list in selecting local education issues that impact our community.

- 1. Access to Civics Education**
  - Ensuring that all students receive high-quality civics education to prepare them for informed participation in democratic society, including understanding government systems, voting, and civil rights.
- 2. Universal Access to Nutritious and Delicious School Meals**
  - Ensuring that every student, regardless of income, has access to healthy, balanced, and appealing meals at school, promoting better health and academic performance.
- 3. Equitable Access to Advanced Placement (AP) and College-Ready Courses**
  - Advocating for programs that allow all students, including those from historically marginalized communities, to access AP courses, college prep classes, and enrichment opportunities.
- 4. Universal Access to High-Quality Early Childhood Education**
  - Expanding access to high-quality pre-K programs to all children, especially those from low-income families, to provide a strong foundation for later academic success.
- 5. Mental Health Support in Schools**
  - Increasing access to mental health professionals in schools, including counselors and psychologists, to support students’ emotional and psychological well-being.
- 6. Inclusive Education for Students with Disabilities**
  - Advocating for fully inclusive classrooms where students with disabilities receive individualized support, enabling them to learn alongside their peers in a least restrictive environment.
- 7. Equity in School Funding**
  - Fighting for equitable school funding to ensure all schools, regardless of their geographic location or socioeconomic status, have the resources they need to succeed.
- 8. Access to High-Speed Internet and Technology**
  - Ensuring that all students have access to high-speed internet and up-to-date technology, particularly in rural and underserved communities, to support remote learning and digital literacy.
- 9. Teacher Pay and Working Conditions**
  - Advocating for better compensation, professional development, and improved working conditions for teachers to retain high-quality educators and prevent burnout.
- 10. Culturally Responsive Curriculum**
  - Ensuring that the curriculum reflects diverse histories, cultures, and perspectives, making learning more relevant and engaging for all students.
- 11. School Safety and Anti-Bullying Programs**
  - Fostering a safe and supportive school environment free from bullying, harassment, and violence, with programs that address both physical and psychological safety.
- 12. Restorative Justice Practices in Schools**
  - Implementing restorative justice approaches to discipline that focuses on healing, accountability, and community-building rather than punitive measures, especially for marginalized students.
- 13. Environmental Education and Sustainability Programs**
  - Integrating environmental sustainability into school curricula, promoting awareness of climate change, and providing students with practical knowledge on sustainability.
- 14. Access to Arts and Physical Education**
  - Ensuring all students have opportunities to engage in music, arts, and physical education, as these programs foster creativity, critical thinking, and overall well-being.

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#### **15. Support for Homeless and Foster Care Students**

- Addressing the unique needs of students experiencing homelessness or in foster care, ensuring they have stable access to education, housing support, and additional resources.

#### **16. Student Voice and Leadership Opportunities**

- Encouraging student involvement in decision-making processes, including student councils, school committees, and other platforms where they can have a voice in shaping their educational experience.

#### **17. Environmental Design of Schools (Building for Learning)**

- Advocating for school facilities that are safe, healthy, and conducive to learning, with natural light, ventilation, and green spaces for students to thrive.

#### **18. Addressing School Climate and Teacher-Student Relationships**

- Promoting policies and practices that foster positive relationships between teachers and students, building trust, and promoting a strong sense of community within the school.

#### **19. Affordable Higher Education and College Access**

- Advocating for more affordable higher education opportunities, including scholarships, grants, and debt-relief programs for students from low-income and underrepresented communities.

#### **20. Support for Immigrant and Refugee Students**

- Creating programs and policies that ensure immigrant and refugee students have access to the support they need to succeed academically, including language services and cultural integration programs.

#### **21. Parent and Family Engagement in Education**

- Strengthening the role of parents and families in the educational process through community outreach, parent-teacher organizations, and programs that encourage parental involvement in school activities.

#### **22. Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Programs**

- Implementing SEL programs in schools to help students build emotional intelligence, resilience, empathy, and effective communication skills, which are key to success in both school and life.

#### **23. Addressing School Discipline Disparities**

- Reducing disparities in disciplinary actions, particularly for students of color, and advocating for alternative discipline practices that emphasize support rather than punishment.

#### **24. Dual Language Learning for All Students (Starting in Pre-K)**

- Advocating for bilingual education programs that start at an early age, ensuring that all students develop proficiency in two or more languages.

