

LWV of the Midland Area
Consensus Questions - K-12 Public School Financing

1. Shall the following LWVMI positions be reaffirmed?

- a. Support the development of a publicly financed public education system in which there is equal opportunity for good education available to all children in Michigan?
Yes No
- b. State income tax, state and local property taxes and state sales tax should all be used as sources of revenue, with the greatest amount being provided by the income tax. No portion of these taxes should be earmarked for financing education. Public funds should not be used for nonpublic education except for shared time in the public schools, auxiliary services and transportation. Yes No
- c. The State should:
- (1) Bear the greatest responsibility for financing public education, including programs for compensatory, special and vocational education, transportation, and education for the gifted. Yes No
- (2).Develop a financial distribution system which would assure equal educational opportunity for all children. Yes No
- d. Local districts should:
- (1) Continue to bear some responsibility for financing education. Yes No
- (2) Have the option of raising additional millage in order to provide some enrichment of the basic educational program. Yes No
- (3) Retain the major control in the spending of the educational dollar, under state guidelines, including programs for compensatory education, transportation, capital outlay and in-service training. Yes No
- (4) Provide for equalization, or comparability of educational opportunities and funding, among all schools in the district. Yes No
- e. The financial distribution system should:
- (1) Ensure equality of education opportunity to all children. Such equality should be measured by using at least two of these criteria, in order of preference: education input, needs of individual children, education outcome, dollars spent per child. Yes No
- (2) Be funded at a level aimed at achieving a high quality program for all school districts.
Yes No
- (3) Be based on, in order of preference: the classroom unit concept, equal dollars per child, or equal dollars per mill. The voucher plan is unacceptable as a distribution system. Yes No

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2. The following questions will be used to formulate a position at the local level:

- a. What quality level should local residents of a K-12 public school district expect the education offered by their schools to be?
- (1) Poor
 - (2) Fair
 - (3) Very Good
 - (4) Excellent
 - (5) Varying from district to district
- b. How important is the level of per pupil financing to the quality of education offered in a local public school district?
- (1) Very important
 - (2) Somewhat important
 - (3) Not important at all
- c. Rate the importance the following factors have to the quality of education a K-12 public school district is able to offer.
- (1) Of utmost importance (2) Somewhat important (3) Should not be a factor
- (a) Number of pupils in the district
 - (b) Average education level of district adults
 - (c) Average household income of district residents
 - (d) Per pupil foundation grant
 - (e) Total dollars available to finance district operations
 - (f) Total area covered by district in square miles
 - (g) Value of property within school district boundaries
- d. Michigan law permits residents of an intermediate school district (educational service agency) to approve up to 3 mills of enhancement funding. Residents of MCESA have approved 1.5 mills. Should the LWV of the Midland area:
- (1) Actively encourage local districts to put the additional 1.5 mills on the ballot?
 - (2) Support the millage if it is put on the ballot?
 - (3) Not support any additional millage locally?
- e. The currently approved MCESA local millage no longer covers all special education costs and local districts are being billed by the MCESA. Should the LWV of the Midland Area:
- (1) Actively encourage MCESA to put additional mills on the ballot?
 - (2) Support the millage if it is put on the ballot?
 - (3) Not support any additional special education millage locally?

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3. **Should the LWV of the Midland Area recommend that the LWVMI review its current K-12 public school financing position for possible revision and action?** Yes No

If yes, should emphasis be on a funding system that is more stable in poor economic times? Yes No