

WNDC PUBLIC POLICY AND POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Positions on Education

The Woman's National Democratic Club (WNDC) asserts that public education in the United States is more than a service—it is a public good that sustains democracy, lifts communities, and secures our collective future. Every child, regardless of ZIP code, race, income, or background, deserves an education that is inclusive, aspirational, and equitable. We envision a nation where education is not a privilege but rather a shared promise: a promise that every child's potential is worth investing in, every educator's voice is valued, and every community is strengthened by its public schools. These actions are not just policy suggestions—they are moral imperatives.

The WNDC Public Policy and Political Action Committee commits to advocating for the following positions and urges policymakers to:

Affirm Public Education as the Bedrock of Democracy

- Enact civics education initiatives that promote democratic engagement and critical thinking.
- Fund programs that support student participation in community service and civic leadership.

Advance Equity in Educational Opportunity

- Substantially increase Title I and IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) funding to address disparities.
- Establish a federal guarantee for universal pre-K education and tuition-free community college.
- Expand broadband access and digital literacy programs to bridge the digital divide.

Reject Privatization That Undermines Public Schools

- Prohibit federal funds from supporting school voucher programs and charter school expansions that are not held to public accountability standards.
- Defend Title I funding from portability schemes that dilute resources meant for the neediest schools.
- Fund research-based curricula and instructional methods tied to measurable outcomes.

Promote Inclusive, Multicultural Curricula

- Mandate teaching of diverse histories, cultures, and social movements that reflect all American identities.
- Fund professional development for educators in culturally responsive instruction.

Ensure Safe, Affirming School Environments

- Pass national legislation to prevent gun violence in schools, including universal background checks and safe storage laws.
- Protect LGBTQ+ students through federal nondiscrimination policies and targeted support programs.
- Invest in anti-bullying and school climate improvement initiatives.
- Create federal grants for schools to expand access to mental health professionals, nurses, and counselors.
- Support wraparound services, including free school meals, health clinics, after-school enrichment, and trauma-informed care.

Elevate and Empower Educators

- Institute a federal minimum salary for teachers and increase investment in teacher preparation and mentorship.
- Create pathways for teacher leadership and involvement in policy development.
- Protect educators' collective bargaining rights and improve their working conditions.