

Education Priorities

- Every child is entitled to a free and appropriate public education, including any necessary services as legally determined.
 - This entitlement is compromised by disparity in funding levels of students' respective school districts. Federal and state funds are used to diminish this gap in student funding, but we still have unacceptable if not egregious levels of disparity. While being ever respectful of local control, federal and state funding must be meant to eliminate this gap, not just reduce it slightly, as is the current practice.
- Current methods of punishing school districts for poor performance only increase the shameful disparity in per-pupil spending, and must be ended. Education is not the business sector, and does not respond effectively to the profit motive.
- The service model in education must be restored. Students are not products of the educational system; they are receivers of educational service. Methods of assessing students must reflect the appropriateness of the service each student or group of students is getting on an ongoing basis. Infrequent, one-size-fits-all products of the standardized testing business cannot adequately do this.
- Teachers must be respected as professionals. The profession of teaching should be regulated according to the model for regulation of other professions such as law & medicine. All these professions have licenses. "License" means having the freedom to practice one's profession, once the requirements of licensure have been met, in accordance with the self-regulation practices of their professional organizations. Within their license, teachers should be free to practice their profession. The current micro-management of teachers is not respectful of their professional standing