**LWVOK 2013 - 15 Study Guide UPDATED 10.21.14**

*Recommendations for Revision or Update of Current Positions*

**SOCIAL POLICY**

**EDUCATION**

**LWVUS**: (abbreviated) *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.*

*While the League recognizes that there are instances where the federal government’s involvement is the only way to achieve universal change (desegregation, special needs population, gender equity), we also recognize that primary responsibility for public education resides with the states.*

*The League Supports*

*• Racial integration*

*• Federal education programs*

*• The federal government sharing with other levels of government the responsibility to provide equality of opportunity for education regardless of race, color gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability*

*The League Opposes*

• *Tuition tax credits*

**LWVOK:** (Note: There are seven positions beginning on the next page under the

heading of **Education.** Although the current LWVOK position book does not organize them this way, they should be considered as all relating to education.. Each of these positions is summarized separately, and will be presented separately in the consensus report form. Each will require a separate recommendation.)

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**SOCIAL POLICY - Education**

**Education Finance: Common and Higher**

**LWVOK** believes that quality education for all children in Oklahoma depends on

adequate financing.

**Common School Education Financing**

The League supports

• The state assuming the major responsibility for financing common schools

(1973)

• The state assuming responsibility for equalizing financial resources among

 school districts (1973)

• The major portion of financing common schools moving away from a base of ad

 valorem taxes (1973)

• Continued improvement of assessment practices (1973)

• The removal of constitutional limitation on millage (1973)

• Broad based sources such as income and sales tax should be used to provide

 funds (1973)

• Mandatory kindergarten for all children by the state (1973)

• Special education including services for gifted children (1973)

• Removal of loopholes in tax laws including the exemptions from property taxes

• The requirement that each school district vote the maximum millage (1973)

• Consideration of formulas other than Average Daily Attendance (ADA) for state

 aid (1973)

**Higher Education Financing (including career and technical education)**

LWVOK believes that adequate financing, expenditure accountability, and efficient financial procedures are the keys to providing quality higher education in

Oklahoma.

The League supports

• The state government assuming the major responsibility for financing state institutions of higher learning (1973)

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**SOCIAL POLICY - Education**

**Administration of Higher Education**

The League supports

• The restructuring of the boards of higher education in order to provide better governance (1973)

• The coordinating board, the State Board of Regents of Higher Education, remain a Constitutional board (1973)

(Note: the following refers to technical education in Oklahoma, which is normally

considered to be post-secondary education)

The League supports

• A significant role for vocation-technical education in total education

• Counseling in career education (1973)

• Providing opportunities for youth and adults in vocational-technical education

(1973)

**Administration of Common Schools**

The League supports

• An appointed Superintendent of Public Education (1973)

• Members of the State Board of Education, whether appointed or elected, be selected to represent districts based on population such as Congressional Districts (1973)

• Reorganization of school districts, as well as the equalized collection and distribution of ad valorem tax (1973)

**Accountability**

The League supports

• A system of accountability that includes goal setting (1973)

• A system of accountability that includes citizen involvement (1973)

• A system of accountability that includes evaluation (1973)

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**SOCIAL POLICY - Education**

**Textbook Selection**

The League supports

• A statewide adoption process for textbook selection, but not limiting the selection to any specific number—only approve or disapprove all submitted materials (1986)

• A flexible process that includes both textbooks and other learning materials (1986)

• Local school district being permitted to use state funds for learning materials appropriate to a course of study (1986)

• Selection criteria be evaluated to remove all redundant, obsolete, inappropriate

and insignificant items (1986)

• Teachers responsible for selecting materials at state or local level be given adequate time free of other duties to accomplish the task (1986)

• Selection committee members have required training to critically analyze materials with regard to curriculum, accuracy of content and appropriateness of method (1986)

• Selection committee members be assisted by using textbook evaluations prepared by professional organizations, field-testing or pilot programs (1986)

• Refusal to adopt a textbook or series be accompanied by an explanations of the

reasons for rejection to the publisher (1986)

**Corporal Punishment**

The League feels that the most effective approaches to discipline in the public

schools emphasizes preventive, diagnostic and remedial measures and helps to

instill self-respect in children and adolescents.

The League opposes

• Corporal punishment in the public schools of Oklahoma (Concurrence, 1989)

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**SOCIAL POLICY - Education**

**Curriculum** (Note: The scope of this study was limited to the secondary school curriculum.)

LWVOK recommends that the legislature review core requirements to allow for

electives and options in meeting graduation requirements in order to reflect the values of the local district.

Core requirements for graduation should be set by professional educators, legislators and citizens working together (2005)

Core requirements should include

o Math,

o Science,

o Government, economics, history

o Language arts (2005)

LWVOK suggests local districts offer a variety of electives that emphasize knowledge for generating informed future voters and the development of life skills (2005).

The League opposes

• Legislated mandates of individual class objectives or PASS (priority academic
student skills) (2005).

Objectives should be regulated by a committee of professional educators, teachers and administrators. The objectives should be consistent throughout the state. (note: The word “Objectives” was not defined in this position) (2005)

Objectives for all classes required for graduation should be available to the public
(2005)

The League supports

• State or federal resources being made available to help meet mandates

(2005)

• High schools looking to higher education institutions, including community

and junior colleges and career tech schools in order to offer advanced courses

and electives (2005)