

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LA PLATA COUNTY EDUCATIONAL POLICY

LA PLATA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS' PROGRAM & BUILDING NEEDS:*

The League of Women Voters of La Plata County believes:

- An educational program must be known and well defined before a building can be designed and built.
- The program should be defined by teachers, students, the citizenry, and administrators; and accepted by the Boards of Education.
- Boards of Education should take the lead in developing a strong career and technical program for middle and high school students.
- A comprehensive physical education program, including health education, should serve the needs of the total student body. The emphasis should be on individual sports, physical fitness and intramural sports while continuing the excellent varsity program.
- A comprehensive fine arts program should be available at all schools.
- There should be adequate budgeting for custodial and maintenance services to provide for clean buildings and effective maintenance throughout the school system. If an increased budget is needed for increased staff or contracting (maintenance) services, then the League supports the increase.
- Joint use (of) facilities by the school districts, city, and county should be encouraged whenever feasible.
- When educational programs are well defined and building needs can be determined, building plans should be developed immediately to fulfill the needs of the educational program within the maximum bonding capacity.

**This position was originally drafted in the 1960's, updated in the 1980's and updated again January 2002 and was reaffirmed at the Annual Meeting, May 11, 2004 and May 13, 2006. This update replaces the section entitled "School District 9-R Building Needs" in the local publication Local Program for Study and Action.*

LA PLATA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS ACCOUNTABILITY:*

Members of the League of Women Voters of La Plata County unanimously agree with the concept of accountability. The League believes that school districts should be held responsible to the public for their use of tax dollars and the education that is given to local students. The League of Women Voters of La Plata County recommends the following in order to assure accountability to the community on the part of La Plata County School Districts:

- Parents, staff and the community in general should be encouraged to participate in school decision making.
- Parents and the community should have reasonable accessibility to the superintendents, principals and board members.
- Frequent open invitations should be extended to parents and the community to visit the schools and participate in activities.
- Parents and the community should have regular, formalized opportunities to communicate their concerns to the schools and the school boards.
- School districts should publish a yearly progress report on the goals of the district and the individual schools.
- School districts should disseminate school news and information on a regular basis.

- Parent meetings should be well publicized and attendance encouraged.

**This position was drafted in 1975, updated in 1987 and updated again in January 2002 and was reaffirmed at the Annual Meeting, May 11, 2004 and May 13, 2006. This update replaces the section entitled "School District 9R Accountability" in the local publication Local Program for Study and Action.*