

## 2024 Pend Oreille County Republicans

### Plank #5 – Education

*Revised 3/24/2024*

**The ultimate goal of education is to instill lifelong skills and cultivate good citizenship in our students. A well-educated populace is fundamental to the continued success of our Republic.**

#### **We believe:**

1. Parents have the right, as well as the duty, to direct their own children's education. This right shall include having the option to choose between public, private, charter, home schooling, or religious schools.
2. Providing parents with a choice among alternative means of education ultimately improves competition and, in turn, competition improves citizenship and the general welfare of our society.

#### **We support:**

1. State-set minimum graduation requirements, leaving specific curriculum decisions to elected local school boards.
2. Acceptance of individual religious expression in school, with no interference by government or school administration.
3. Teaching conducted in the English language, with educational materials printed in English. All students are required to demonstrate progress toward achieving grade-level English proficiency in order to retain placement in age-appropriate classes.
4. Requiring training in the skills of cursive writing and reading, in order to be able to sign and to read legal documents with your unique signature, as well as original documents (e.g. – Religious texts, Magna Carter, US Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and more).
5. Teaching grade level appropriate skills of typing, computer keyboarding, business software, personal finances, business math, entrepreneurship, and other job skills,
6. A prohibition on public schools from promoting activities or lifestyles that are contrary to the local community's moral and civic standards as defined by parents working through their locally elected school boards.
7. The use of school time and resources for traditional academic subjects exclusively, leaving lessons on religion, morality, citizenship, social justice, political orientation, and sexuality, to be reserved, rightfully, only to the parents, or other legal caregivers of students.
8. Current Washington State laws prohibiting teacher strikes.
9. A defined program holding teachers' accountability for the academic performance of students.
10. It is essential schools teach a comprehensive civics curriculum, including U.S. history including the content and original intent of America's founding documents and letters as part of the history, theory, and practice of the U.S. free enterprise system.
11. Vouchers, School Choice, and tax breaks for home schooling families which provide many proven benefits and savings beyond what a public funded education has proven that it cannot do.

*(POCR Plank 15 cont.)*

**Finally, we demand;**

1. The immediate return to local and individual state funding and governance of education by each state, as originally intended by the founders as a power delegated only to the states.
2. The dismantling of the federal Department of Education, including the immediate elimination of its entire budget, dismissal of all its employees, and the permanent removal of the U.S. Secretary of Education including their representation on the President's cabinet of advisors.