

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS HENDERSON COUNTY. RELEASES 15 MONTH STUDY TO DEFINE QUALITY EDUCATION



You probably know the League of Women Voters is known for defending and supporting voting rights and fair elections. **But, did you know the League of Women Voters also tackles social justice issues?**

LWVHC QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION TEAM

In support of our children, public schools, and social justice issues, the League in Henderson County:

- Completed its 15-month study: **"Defining Components of a Quality Public Education"** in March of 2016.
- Continues to be a coalition partner of the HC Public Schools *Students Voting for Democracy* program, giving opportunities for all students to participate in a civics program with mock elections.
- Has sponsored the *Kids Voting* program for 16 years.
- Holds voter registration drives for high school students.
- Gives the "Gift of Words" in books for preschool children during the holidays.

- Helped organize the Immigration Network and initiate the Path to College Program, which mentors students and supports scholarships.
- Worked with the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) to improve delivery of juvenile justice.
- Studied and advocated for new school buildings in HC in the 1990's.
- Participated in an organized effort to bring about the Children and Family Resource Center (CFRC).
- Was involved in the community dialogue during the school city-county merger.



Members of the Quality Public Education Team: Front row (left to right): Rachel Poller, Linda Bruton, Kathleen Hespelt, and Katharine Taylor.

Back row (left to right): Jody Davidson, Helen Wright, Rick Wood, Linda Miller, and Sharon Burlingame.

Not pictured: Harold Hellickson.

Results of the Local League's Education Study

- After a national study, the League of Women Voters USA took the position that a *high quality public education for all children is necessary to sustain our democratic way of life and the economic health of our state and the people.*
- Local Leagues were advised if they wanted to take positions for which they could advocate, they should undertake a study to define a "Quality" public education in specific terms. **A League cannot take a stand on any issue until it first conducts a fact-finding study, so our local League conducted a 15-month study: "Defining Components of a Quality Public Education."**
- Fact-finding involved conducting a community survey. **Over 500 community members took our survey** on 25 components that our team researched and concluded should be included in the definition of a quality public education in the best interests of the students.

The Results of the community survey are below:



Civics in Social Studies

Consensus Mtg.	Community Survey Results of the HC League of Women Voters 15-Month Education Study: Defining Components of a Quality Public Education	Community	Survey	Results
#	Begin each statement with: "In a quality public education..."	% who Agree	% No Opinion	% who Disagree
1	Parents support their kids.	89	5	6
2	Schools have a strong PTA/PTO.	87	7	6
3	Parents have opportunities to support their kids.	87	7	6
4	Civics units with mock elections are held.	76	12	12
5	Students participate in student government.	73	19	9
6	Students can identify their national, state, and local representatives.	78	13	9
7	Teachers integrate technology into their lessons, and each student is provided a digital device.	75	11	14
8	Computer techs are responsible to maintain equipment at each school.	71	17	12
9	Technology facilitators help teachers integrate technology effectively.	76	12	12
10	Students have PE everyday.	81	6	13
11	Students have sufficient time for PE, recess, & lunch periods to meet their physical and social needs.	86	4	10
12	Students have good-tasting, nutritious cafeteria food and are allowed input.	81	6	14
13	There is a maximum student/teacher ratio.	82	4	15
14	Certified Educators teach students, are supported by assistants, and have sufficient resources to teach.	85	4	11
15	Teachers have a say in deciding age-appropriate material.	81	7	12
16	Local history and nature are used in lessons.	83	8	10
17	There is school funding for field trips & extra-curricular activities.	74	9	18
18	Driver education is provided at no cost to students.	70	15	14
19	Students are regularly instructed in art and music.	81	6	13
20	STEM is incorporated into science and math lessons.	81	12	7
21	Vocational and career training are available for 6-12 grade students.	87	7	6
22	There is a district homework policy for K-5 students.	65	15	19
23	Every school has a full-time nurse.	69	11	19
24	Preschool is fully funded for eligible students.	72	7	21
25	Testing is used to foster student learning.	57	7	37
25A Revised	Teacher made tests are used to foster and measure learning.	LWVHC	100%	
25B Revised	State standardized tests measuring school performance are given once a year and are not used to grade students, teachers, or schools.	LWVHC	100%	



Technology



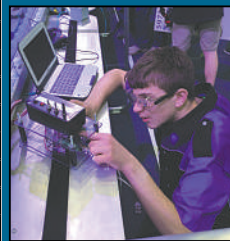
P.E. and Recess



Healthy Eating



Drivers Ed



STEM IN Science



School Nurse



Art



Music



Local History and Nature

A, B, C, D, or F?

Just one grade per school per year? Based almost entirely on standardized test scores?

Speak Up for Public Education!

Currently public schools receive only one grade based almost entirely on standardized test scores to evaluate how well schools are meeting students' needs and preparing them to be successful citizens.

Should each school receive a report card with several grades as students do?

How well are the schools preparing their students in civics, technology, the arts, etc.?

If you believe we need a better evaluation of school quality to give community members a more accurate picture of school performance, **now** is the time to let your state representatives know. Please take into account the League's survey including the components listed above when considering what other types of grades and evaluations should be on a school report.

Your brief email, letter, or phone call matters!

Here are contact numbers of HC State government officials who need to hear your voice:

Chuck Edwards
HC State Senator for Senate District 48
Henderson, Transylvania, and parts of Buncombe County
Email: Chuck.Edwards@ncleg.net
Phone: 919-733-5745
Address:
NC Senate
16 W. Jones Street, Room 2010
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

Chuck McGrady
State Representative for House District 117
Northern Henderson County
Email: Chuck.McGrady@ncleg.net
Phone: (919) 733-5956
Address:
NC House of Representatives
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 304
Raleigh NC 27603-5925

Cody Henson
State Representative for House District 113
Transylvania, Polk, and Southern Henderson County
Email: Cody.Henson@ncleg.net
Phone: (919) 715-4466
Address:
NC House of Representatives
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 537
Raleigh NC 27603-5925

Talk to your family and friends about it too. Thank you!



WORKING FOR DEMOCRACY IN HENDERSON COUNTY FOR 51 YEARS! JOIN US!
www: lwhcnc.org • Po Box 2238 • Hendersonville, NC 28793.