

## LOCAL EDUCATION

The League of Women Voters of the Tiffin Area believes that the public-school districts should provide quality education in order to prepare all students for life in our world.

The League supports program, services and facilities that

1. Are above state minimum standards, as supported by research;
2. Are based on planning and prioritizing;
3. Utilize multiple sources of funding to provide adequate support;
4. Provide all students with a clean, safe, and healthy environment while under the care of the Tiffin City Schools.

### Position:

#### 1. Provision of Services

In order to meet present and future needs of public education students, the League believes that local districts could provide the following programs, services and facilities that are above the current state minimum standards.

#### Curriculum

Academic – Middle School and High School  
3 years foreign language in more than one language  
Math, Science, Social Studies and Health  
3-4 years physical education  
Broadband Services  
Vocational/Technology  
Intervention Services for Special Needs  
Gifted  
Summer Education Opportunities  
Adult Education

#### Extra-Curricular (non-credit)

Athletics	Fine Arts
Academics	Music
Drama	

#### Support Services

Administrative Services	Libraries
Guidance Counselors	Transportation
School Psychologists	Food Service

#### Physical Plant

Permanent locations	Playgrounds
Temporary locations	Athletic facilities
Multi-purpose rooms	Maintenance

If extra-curricular athletics are provided, the League also believes that equal opportunities for participation should be available to all students.

#### 2. Essential/Non-essential Programs, Services and Facilities

The League believes that choices should be made about programs, services, and facilities above those required by state law on an essential vs. non-essential basis. To support that premise, the League believes that the following programs, services, and facilities are **essential**:

Academic

- 3 years foreign language in more than one language
- Math, Science, Health and Social Studies
- 2-4 years physical education
- Vocational/Technology
- Distance learning to connect resources around the world
- Physical Plant

Libraries

- Teaching materials
- Administrative services
- Transportation
- Food service
- Physical Plant

Permanent locations

- Temporary locations
- Maintenance
- Multi-purpose rooms
- Playgrounds

The League believes that the following programs, services and facilities are **non-essential**:

Extra-curricular

- Fine Arts
- Music
- Drama
- Athletic facilities
- Summer education opportunities
- Athletics

### 3. Ranking of Services

The League believes that decisions regarding essential program, services, and facilities must be based upon priorities. Therefore, the League supports the following ranking:

#### High Priority

Academic

- 3 years foreign language in more than one language
- Math, Science, Health and Social Studies
- Vocational/Technology
- Broadband access

Libraries

Intervention Services for Special Needs

Gifted

3-4 years physical education

Teaching materials

Integrated facilities adequate for curricular and programming needs to include permanent locations, temporary locations, scheduled maintenance, multipurpose rooms and playgrounds.

#### Medium Priority

School Psychologist

Transportation

School counselors

Food service

#### Low Priority

Administrative Services

#### **4. Criteria**

The League believes the following criteria should be considered in determining the level of essential programs, services, and facilities provided above those mandated by state minimum standards:

**Criteria of high ranking include:**

1. A long-range plan that integrates services, programs, and facilities
2. Teacher qualifications above minimum licensure standards
3. Flexibility in the budget for funding local priorities
4. Outcome measures such as percent of graduated employed and/or enrolled in higher education, attendance rates, and dropout rates.
6. All student and academic staff have Internet resources

**Criteria of medium ranking include:**

1. Teacher/pupil ratio
2. Cost per pupil
3. Physical classroom size
4. Standardized assessment

**Criteria of lower ranking include:**

1. Minimum standards
2. Administration/pupil ratio

#### **5. Funding**

The League believes that adequate financial support is necessary to maintain quality programs, services, and facilities in local education. Fund sources should include a combination of property tax, income tax, and bonds.

The League supports property tax and income tax use for operating, permanent improvements and/or capital improvement levies and bond retirement. League supports bond issues for funding permanent improvement and capital improvement needs. The League opposes the use of participation fees for student activities.

The League supports Tiffin City Schools creating Charter Schools within the District. Charter Schools provide alternative learning opportunities for students and keep funding within the District, while remaining under the supervision of the Tiffin City Schools and Board of Education.

#### **6. Long Range Planning**

The League supports long range planning on the part of Tiffin City Schools Administration and Board of Education. The following constituent groups should be included in the planning process:

Educators; Local teachers, administrators and support staff; Higher education; and Members of the public.

#### **Background on Position**

In May of 1989 the study was adopted with the following scope: “an evaluation of education funding for local public-school systems within our League area, study areas of program, staff and facilities.” Unit meetings were held in the fall, presenting information on Tiffin City School facilities. Superintendent Larry Cook and school board member William Hite were present to answer questions.

A general meeting was held in February 1990 featuring Dr. Irene Bandy, State Asst. Superintendent, Ohio Dept. of Education, speaking on Senate Bill 140. Two general meetings were held in March, with consensus taken at that time. Positions were adopted in April 1990.

“State of the Schools” was the subject of the community dinner meeting in February 1991. Administrators from three local districts were guest panelists.

A September 1993 general meeting featured Assistant Superintendent Paul Assenheimer, who reviewed the school reorganization plan scheduled to go into effect in the fall of 1993.

“State of the Schools” was again the subject of the March 1994 community issues dinner. Tiffin’s new superintendent, Forest Yocum, was the guest speaker.

An operating levy and bond issue were both defeated in November 1994. A reduced operating levy only was put on the May 1995 ballot. The League joined a coalition in support of the levy and scheduled two general meetings, in January and April, both open to the public. The levy passed.

At the 1999 Annual meeting, Denise Callihan, Superintendent of the Tiffin School District, presented the Feasibility Study, conducted by outside consultants, evaluating existing facilities and proposing various recommendations. She also explained how the state’s funding plan would impact the School District.

During the September 2000 General meeting, Denise Callihan explained the Bond Issue that was to be on the November ballot. It was to provide adequate funding to purchase land, construct a new middle school and maintain the building. The League supported the issue. On Election Day the Tiffin voters supported the plans for the new school.

The new middle school was completed in 2003.

The League supported the Tiffin School District operating level on the May 2004 ballot, (the levy failed), and again with the special ballot in August 2004 with letters to the Editor and \$100 to the Campaign Committee for ads. The levy passed.

An informational meeting in March 2005 was held at the Tiffin-Seneca Public Library on the current issues surrounding education such as charter schools, cyber-schools and vouchers.

The first meeting for the program year 2005-2006 Tiffin City School Superintendent Don Coletta presented “Impact of State Budget Cuts”, a complex financial issue for local schools.

The League supported the 1.5 mill Permanent Improvement levy in May 2007.

The position was revised at the 2011 Annual Meeting.

Members adopted an update on the Tiffin Public Schools. The scope would include a study of provision of services, curriculum, minimum standards, support services and physical plant as well as an examination of funding including the effects of a decrease in State funding. Consensus to be reached by the Annual Meeting, 2013.

Information was presented at the general meeting March 14, 2013 and consensus questions were discussed at the general meeting April 11, 2013. A revised position statement was adopted by the membership at the Annual Meeting May 16, 2013.

September 12, 2013, a public meeting at the North Central Ohio Education Center, describing the programs available to school districts and organization of the Educational Center.

The League supported the renewal levy for the Tiffin City Schools and the funding levy passed in May 2014.

The League supported the renewal levy for the Tiffin City Schools and the levy passed in May 2018.

A General meeting was held January 19, 2022. Dr. Laura Kagy, Superintendent of Seneca East Schools and member of the Seneca Rural Broadband Task Force, spoke on the struggle of rural school districts to provide students Internet access when the COVID pandemic shut down schools.

Tiffin League members approved the expanded Local Education Funding position to include access to broadband services at the Annual Meeting in May 2022.

The word "Funding" was dropped from the position title to more appropriately reflect the position content.