

FIGHTING FOR OUR FUTURE.



SCHOOL BOARD COHORT
STATEMENT OF VALUES

LOCALPROGRESS

WE ARE THE LP SCHOOL BOARD COHORT.

We are part of a national network of current and former elected officials dedicated to ensuring all students have a quality education. We assert that public schools must be places of healing, growth, and safety.

We are united by a shared vision of strong public education that fosters a multiracial democracy and gives students, their families, and our broader communities everything they need to thrive. We advocate for and protect our public schools, resisting attempts to dismantle and/or privatize public education across the country. Public schools are the cornerstones of our communities, where students learn how to be active participants in our democracy.

Achieving this vision requires engaged communities, strong public institutions, and courageous elected leaders who are willing to reimagine what is possible, undo systems and structures that have perpetuated racial discrimination and inequities, and restore trust in the power of local governance and the promise of public education.

We value public education as the bedrock of democracy

We value public education as the bedrock of democracy, where public dollars fully fund public schools and where our schools are governed by locally elected officials. Publicly accountable school boards fight to make sure public dollars remain in their communities to fully fund adequate and safe public schools where all students – especially those who have been excluded or marginalized – can thrive.

We value building an equitable public education system

We are building with students, families, educators, labor allies, and essential workers at the center, so that together we can make our schools the best they can be – now and for decades to come.

We believe in ensuring our educators have the support, tools, and resources

We believe in ensuring our educators have the support, tools, and resources to provide students with an enriching learning experience that teaches truth, civic education, care for one another, and a culturally responsive curriculum that does not whitewash history or erase cultural identities and experiences.

We champion holistic learning environments that prioritize the well-being of every child

Rather than focus on test scores, we strategize around growth-oriented deep learning, critical thinking skills, mental and emotional wellness, food equity, and the assurance of safe, nurturing housing, and equitable routes to school. We believe every child deserves a space where they belong, feel physically and emotionally secure, and can truly thrive.

We value diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility and celebrate all identities

This includes LGBTQIA+, BIPOC, individuals with disabilities, and undocumented people. We work hand-in-hand with these communities to create safety and well-being by undoing harm, dismantling systems of oppression such as school segregation, environmental racism, language discrimination, school-to-prison pipeline, replacing historically discriminative, punitive practices with restorative ones, and building a nourishing environment for students in rural, urban, and suburban areas.

We value and support each other as leaders

We value and support each other as leaders in making a daily impact in our communities, even when it gets hard, because we know that our children, families, and communities need voices in positions of power that work courageously to address our most pressing educational needs.

For more information about our school board work, visit www.localprogress.org
