

SCPD Education Team Position Statement [8/19/09]

To compete in the world in the 21st century, every Ohio student must have the opportunity for a quality education. We believe this is a fundamental right for every Ohio child. Ohio's school funding system is currently denying this right. We support revisions to the State of Ohio school funding system to address this issue by the following:

- * Support a system of education administered directly by public school districts; one that is transparent and accountable to the citizenry and serves all Ohio students with measurable achievement and success
- * Define educational standards and guidelines that research has determined to constitute an effective education
- * Determine the cost of such an education in general and for specific categories based on students' needs
- * Provide funding based on reduced reliance on property tax and on equity and adequacy for all students (based on the DeRolph decision and on the Constitutional mandate to provide funding for public education)
- * Ensure that such funding system provides a degree of equity such that poor school districts can meet or exceed the basic standards and guidelines for a quality education
- * Eliminate phantom revenue accounting, unfunded mandates, and other structural problems, which can disadvantage local school districts
- * Provide sufficient funding to assure that all school facilities are adequately maintained and equipped for future technologies and energy efficiencies

* Promote formal and informal ways of consolidation and cooperation between Ohio's school districts to promote efficiency and economy

* Establish a seamless transition between Pre K-12 and higher education; include provisions for expanded pre-school opportunities and all-day Kindergarten for all children.

*Control and limit the costs of higher education and provide financial support to Ohio students so they can pursue advanced education; promote higher education linkages to research and to 21st century job opportunities that attract graduates and a prepared workforce to live and work in Ohio.