

K-12 EDUCATION

Augusta County Democratic Committee believes that our public schools should provide a challenging learning environment offering instruction appropriate to each child's learning style and development. In addition to appropriate academic and vocational education, we believe public education should strive to foster life skills, responsible citizenship, problem solving, and collaborative decision-making for all students. To achieve these goals, the Augusta County Democratic Committee believes:

- Augusta County teacher pay must be maintained at a level near the national average to keep and attract teachers of the highest quality.
- Increased expenditures do not guarantee success but insufficient expenditures do almost certainly guarantee failure.
- Tax dollars should support public schools only. No tax dollars should be used to support private schools including charter schools not part of the public school system.
- High quality, universal preschool programs to help all our kids get a strong head start to their education must be provided.
- Every student must have access to current technology and learn to use it appropriately.
- Local, state, and national government should provide adequate funding for modern classrooms, technology, and nutrition programs.
- Schools must provide a safe and orderly environment characterized by the active involvement of students, parents, educators, and the community.
- School security must be upgraded to include restricted access and Resource Officers for all Augusta County public schools.
- Each student's self-image should be fostered by positive relationships with teachers and fellow students.
- Schools must provide appropriate programs to encourage and support each student in the pursuit of higher education or in developing career and employment skills.
- In addition to standardized testing, students should be assessed using multiple measures such as performance-based and portfolio assessments, frequent low-stakes testing, game-based assessments, and assessments designed to measure creativity and democratic problem solving.

- A well-rounded education includes opportunities for every student to participate in extracurricular activities including athletics and sports, the arts, and enrichment of classroom instruction.
- The weekday religious education program in Augusta County schools should be eliminated or measures taken to ensure that students who do not participate are provided substantive alternatives.
- Civics and Government must always be part of the education curriculum.