

07/01/18. From: Don Fitz. To: MOGP CC, Chapters & Members. Version 4

[Approved June 27, 2018 by MOGP Education Platform Subcommittee, minor edits by Cris Mann July 1. Please send suggested additions with underlines and deletions with ~~strikethroughs~~ to fitzdon@aol.com and put "MOGP Education Platform suggested changes" in the subject line and indicate who it is from.]

Missouri Green Party Education Platform – 2018

Overview:

The Missouri Green Party believes that public education is important for all Missourians. Our commitment will ensure a public education system in which all people can best achieve their life's ambitions. A Green government will work to create an educational system that prepares all students to be effective and concerned members of our society.

Green Party Education Platform - 2018:

Section 1. Education is a civil right.

Charter Schools are one more example of privatizing public institutions creating unfair and unequal allocation of resources for education.

1a. Provide full, equitable funding for all public schools.

1b. End privately managed/for profit charter schools. Charter schools are a failed experiment that harm children. Only 1 in 5 charter schools outperform traditional schools.

1c. End school vouchers schemes.

1d. Call for a moratorium on school privatization.

1e. Provide a free public post-secondary college/career/higher education to all high school graduates.

1f. Expand Missouri's current A+ Scholarship program to give more students access to the program. Better advertise the program and expand the amount and types of schools towards which it can be used.

1g. Expand the Upward Bound program currently in place in southwest Missouri to help first generation college bound students.

1h. Hold statewide conferences with elected school board officials, community activists, parents and teachers to discuss strategies to increase funding for equitable educational programs, including a review of promised lottery funds from past years.

Section 2. Ensure that Missouri schools hire and retain strong teachers.

Getting a strong teacher workforce will require making the career of teaching appeal to young potential educators.

2a. Improve teacher education by hiring only education professors who have spent the majority of their careers as teachers in the classroom.

2b. Protect Missouri teacher tenure program and support teacher's unions.

2c. Protect collective bargaining and oppose "right to work" laws.

2d. Protect and advertise Missouri's current excellent teacher retirement program.

2e. Provide funding to recruit, prepare, and retain teachers of color.

Section 3. Quality classroom instruction for every student.

3a. Ensure class size limits that foster caring, democratic classrooms.

3b. Protect multicultural/multilingual and ethnic studies programs.

3c. Provide well-rounded programs, including art, music, physical education, and technology.

3d. Develop programs to identify and help students who are at risk of dropping out and provide effective interventions.

3e. End test-based public school closures and teacher evaluations based on standardized testing outcomes.

3f. End mandated standardized testing and implement meaningful, assessments to support instruction.

Section 4. Public Schools: Uniting Communities.

Missouri needs the community schools model that promotes bringing together many partners (community and school stakeholders) to offer a range of supports and opportunities to children, youth, families and communities. Partners work to achieve positive results through an integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community engagement.

4a. Support the creation of community schools.

4b. Expand preschool and head-start programs.

4c. Establish democratically elected school boards for every district.

4d. Encourage meaningful community involvement in school governance.

4e. End corporate influence over public school governance.

4f. Encourage community input into curriculum and assessment policies.

Section 5. Safe, socially just public schools.

Students' need for safety in the school environment can take many forms: physical safety, acceptance, security about their place in a learning environment and freedom from unjust institutions. Guaranteeing safety in schools requires a variety of approaches.

5a. Create socially and racially just student discipline policies.

5b. Protect the rights of LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer), and racially/ethnic diverse students.

5c. Ensure racially and socially just policing in every community.

5d. Devote more resources to English as a Second Language (ESL) programs.

5e. Encourage safe and sane gun legislation. Guns should not be allowed in any public school. [If some private schools remain, don't we want to remove guns there, also? DF]

5f. Promote restorative justice programs for students and staff. The restorative justice model emphasizes accountability, bringing together parties involved in conflict to craft a resolution that benefits all involved.

Section 6: Modernizing our public schools.

6a. Provide funding for schools to use integrated technology in the classroom.

6b. Provide funding for schools to move towards using renewable energy sources.

6c. In designated areas provide funding for schools to create FEMA shelters/areas that can also multiple purposes (gyms, theatres, extra classroom space, etc.).

Subject: MOGP **Education** Platform for review by chapters and members

July 2, 2018

MOGP CC, chapters and members,

ATTACHED is mogpPlatEduc180701V4 as a DOC and PDF file which is proposed by the MOGP **Education** Platform Subcommittee.

Please send suggested additions and deletions to me at fitzdon@aol.com by August 2, which should allow 30 days for review.

It would be good to look at it soon rather than just before the MOGP convention.

We will have six platform planks to review on Aug 18 and should do everything we can during the next 30 days to facilitate discussion and propose modifications.

Each platform subcommittee should receive all suggested changes.

They should then have another call in early Aug to decide which changes to accept and which to send to the convention for discussion.

The majority of changes are likely to be minor wording edits which we can deal with before Aug 18.

This would leave substantive changes to the convention, which would improve it discussions.

IMPORTANT: Comments like "This sentence is vague" or "Two parts contradict each other" are not helpful because they do not indicate to the subcommittee what it should do.

Proposals should have specific language: additions with underlines and deletions with ~~strikethroughs~~.

Best,

Don Fitz, 314-727-8554