

# WORKSHEET – 2010 Whatcom County Democratic Party Platform

<b>2008 Platform – EDUCATION</b>	<b>Education VALUES</b>	<b>2010 Education</b>
<p>“Education is the cornerstone of a healthy democracy.” It unites students of diverse experiences, abilities, and backgrounds for the common purpose of learning and ensures our nation’s bright future.</p> <p>It is the paramount duty of the State to provide ample funding to support high quality and appropriate education for all children. We call for a renewed commitment to make public education a priority in Washington State. We must ensure access to educational opportunities for all students and foster respect for the diverse cultural communities of Whatcom County.</p> <p><b>We Call For:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full funding for pre-K through higher education including adult vocational and basic skills education;</li> <li>• Immediately repealing the so-called “No Child Left Behind” Act;</li> <li>• Eliminating the use of costly, high-stakes tests such as the WASL to assess student learning or school performance;</li> <li>• Presenting scientifically accepted theories of the origin of species and the universe in all public schools;</li> <li>• Providing more alternative education programs and community involvement efforts;</li> <li>• Restoring support for the creative and performing arts, career &amp; technical education, and physical education;</li> <li>• Teaching citizenship with emphasis on the political process and the Constitution;</li> <li>• Ensuring that all facilities are well-maintained, safe and secure;</li> <li>• Promoting a safe environment at school for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-gendered (LBGT) students;</li> <li>• Providing salary, benefit, and retirement plans for public educators commensurate with other professionals with similar experience and backgrounds;</li> <li>• Cost of living increases for K-12 and higher education employees;</li> <li>• Creating the option for teachers in their first five years to write off 20% of outstanding student loans per year;</li> <li>• Putting part-time public educators at all levels on the same pay/benefit scales as full time faculty;</li> </ul>	<p><b>These should be enduring value statements, which taken together cover the range of issues in this section. State in positive terms.</b></p>	<p><b>2-Year Policy Priorities</b></p> <p><b>From each values statement, think of one short-term goal that is fairly tangible and concrete, with a preference for local needs.</b></p>
		<p><b>Plan to attend the 2010 Democratic Grassroots Strategy Sessions, Saturday, March 6, 10 am – noon. Locations to be announced at <a href="http://whatcomdemocrats.com">whatcomdemocrats.com</a> .</b></p>
		<p><b>Bring this worksheet with your ideas to the Strategy Sessions so you can discuss them with other Democrats.</b></p> <p><b>More information at 647-7661.</b></p>