



POSITION PAPER ON QUALITY EDUCATION

Having listened to parents, students, and educators, and recognizing that educating our children is everyone's responsibility, not just a job for our schools and school staff, Parents Across America prepared the following definition of a quality education.

Quality education is child-centered. *Quality schools:*

- nurture the whole child,
- provide a safe, comfortable, happy, child-centered environment in small classes,
- discover and celebrate each child's intellectual, creative, and social abilities,
- develop every child's passion for being a life-long learner,
- encourage children's curiosity and self-expression,
- offer individualized, diversified, broad-based learning that meets the needs of all students,
- include an emphasis on developing a love of reading in students,
- build self-esteem, honor differences, and respect the stages of child development by using high engagement, hands-on learning, and high-quality, appropriate assessments,
- employ positive discipline policies and practices, and
- use learning approaches that connect the child to the world.

Quality education requires skilled professionals. *Quality schools:*

- trust teachers as fully prepared professionals,
- provide all teachers with the academic freedom to deliver a curriculum using best educational practices,
- engage teachers, school staff, students, parents, families, and neighborhoods in collaborative relationships that foster respect, trust, appreciation and cooperation, and
- limit the use of adaptive technology and on-line learning, recognizing that the teacher/student relationship is paramount to supporting quality learning.

Quality education promotes justice, equity, and democracy. *Quality schools:*

- are fully accessible to all students,
- embrace diversity and engage the cultural assets of its children and their families,
- produce engaged, thoughtful, and adaptable local and world citizens,
- are community-governed, with a strong parent voice,
- are community-centered, and provide services and activities that benefit students and their families,
- grow in response to the expertise, experiences and relationships of members of the school community, and
- are supported by full, robust and equitable funding from the appropriate government sources.