

Maggie's Civics Corner

Lesson #26 – Education Policy



Maggie says ...

In these difficult times, as our nation and the world pull together, it is more important than ever to understand our role as a citizen.

Today's lesson is about EDUCATION POLICY. I know there are many issues in which the candidates for President of the United States are interested. One of the issues I am interested in is that of Education. I loved it when Judge Rendell or Governor Rendell would take me to school to learn obedience.

Sticky Situation: I like watching kids playing. So... imagine that your school has a very popular junior basketball team. You have just reached the grade where you are eligible to participate on the team, and you have been looking forward to trying out for it. However, in order to prevent the elimination of other activities, your School Board is considering requiring students on athletic teams to have to pay to participate. Do you think this is a good idea? Why or why not? What could you do to make your opinion known about this subject?

Activity: Did you know that a School Board monitors the budgets and spending activities for all the schools in that school district? The decision about whether to charge a student who wants to play on a school team ...sometimes called pay-to-play... would come from a school board. Do you think it is a good idea for a school board to require students of its district that participate on an athletic team – softball, basketball, football, tennis, etc. – to have to pay in order to play on a team? Prepare a speech that you would like to give to your School Board about your opinion on this subject.

Civics Resources: Here are examples of Education Policies published by a few 2020 presidential candidates. After reviewing each, discuss the key takeaways from each. Then, consider how the plans/policies compare to one another. How are they different?

[Joe Biden – The Biden Plan for Educators, Students, and Our Future](#)

[Donald Trump – Executive Order on Establishing the President's Advisory 1776 Commission](#)

[Bernie Sanders – A Thurgood Marshall Plan for Public Education](#)