

EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES

150-010 Community Colleges and Vocational/Technical Education Institutions (Convention 2021: Includes “Community Colleges and Vocational/Technical Education Institutions,” Convention 1964; and “Youth Employment,” Convention 1962)

WHEREAS, Community colleges and vocational/technical education institutions offer quality education, employment training, personal enrichment opportunities, and flexible scheduling at a lower cost than traditional four-year colleges; and

WHEREAS, Almost half of all undergraduates in the United States attend community colleges; and

WHEREAS, Vocational/technical education is multifaceted focusing around a wide variety of careers; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to support:

- Community colleges and vocational/technical education institutions;
- Local, state, and federal funding for financial assistance for community college and vocational/technical education students;
- Scholarships for students enrolled in community college or vocational/technical education programs.

150-020 Digital Media in Education (Convention 1953; Amended and Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Amended 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Reviewed 2002; Reviewed 2006; Amended 2010; Amended 2014; Reviewed 2018; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women’s Clubs recognizes:

- The impact of digital media, including its importance in educational programs;
- Both the successes and challenges presented by technological advancements;
- The staggering impact of pandemic and other catastrophic events on global education resulting in the delivery of education programs remotely via digital platforms;
- The vast majority of today’s careers require at least some digital media skills; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Work with educational and governmental institutions to provide quality education through digital media, including ensuring access to necessary technology;
- Support the continued development of digital educational programs;
- Ensure that students possess the necessary skills to utilize the digital media programming available to them;
- Support local, state, federal, and private funding of digital educational programs.

150-030 Education (Convention 2021: Includes “Basic Education,” Convention 1990; and “Humanities Education,” Convention 1985)

WHEREAS, Many United States students are not prepared academically to compete in a global society; and

WHEREAS, Solutions to national educational deficiencies must be addressed by local school districts, parents, and the community together for students to achieve their academic goals; and

WHEREAS, The needs of all students, including those with learning, social, mental, and physical disabilities, must be integrated into educational programs at all levels; and

WHEREAS, A humanities education includes disciplines that study aspects of human society and culture, and contains content and methods that encourage creativity, curiosity, and empathy, which foster good writing and critical thinking skills; and

WHEREAS, A proficiency in speaking and reading foreign languages and a knowledge of the history and culture of other nations are necessary for understanding and participation in world affairs; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Support strong educational programs with challenging academic curricula for all students, including those with learning, social, mental, and physical disabilities;
- Encourage students to study science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM), humanities, and foreign languages;
- Support programs that encourage high school drop-outs to pursue a general equivalency diploma (GED);
- Establish scholarships for students to participate in GED programs;
- Encourage parents to be actively involved in their children’s academic lives;
- Support funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities.

150-040 Education of Children Raised in Foster Care (Convention 2021)

WHEREAS, More than 20,000 children in the United States foster care system annually reach the age of 18 and become ineligible for state-provided care; and

WHEREAS, Studies show that:

- Approximately 40% of children in foster care have educational difficulties;
- Children in foster care are three times more likely to drop out of high school when compared to other low-income children;
- Only 50% of children in foster care obtain a high school diploma; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Advocate for legislation that allows children in foster care the option of remaining in the foster care system until they either obtain a high school diploma or reach the age at which they are no longer entitled to a free public education;
- Collaborate with local school districts and foster care agencies to provide children raised in foster care with access to scholarships to complete a general equivalency diploma (GED) program and obtain post-secondary education, education training vouchers, academic success coaching, personal mentoring, and student care packages.

150-050 English Language in the United States (Formerly "English, Official Language U.S.A."; Convention 1986; Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Reviewed 1993; Reviewed 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2005; Amended 2009; Reviewed 2013; Amended 2017; Amended 2018; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, The United States of America has always been a multilingual nation, enriched by the cultural contributions of immigrants from many traditions; and

WHEREAS, English is a global language shared with many other nations and is the most widely used medium of international communication; and

WHEREAS, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is in place to protect the rights of individuals who do not speak fluent English, as is the custom; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support:

- Language programs for non-English speakers;
- Adoption of legislation that establishes English as the official language of the United States of America.

150-060 Libraries (Convention 1948; Reaffirmed 1978; Reaffirmed 1985; Amended and Reaffirmed; Amended 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, Libraries are the preeminent self-help community asset, providing traditional and electronic access to information for everyone, especially poor, minority, immigrant, and rural populations who may have limited resources at home; and

WHEREAS, Libraries are information resource centers for education, employment, and recreation and serve the entire community; and

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs was credited with the establishment of approximately 75 percent of the nation's public libraries by 1933; and

WHEREAS, There is a strong relationship between public libraries and early reading success at school; and

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs established The GFWC Disaster Relief - Library Replenishment Fund to assist GFWC communities affected by manmade and natural disasters in restocking the collections of community and public school libraries; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support:

- Existing libraries and library programs;
- Expansion of library services and programs to underserved areas;
- Use of library facilities and services;
- Local, state, and federal funding of libraries;
- The GFWC Disaster Relief - Library Replenishment Fund.

150-070 Lifelong Learning (Convention 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2004; Reviewed 2008; Reviewed 2012; Amended 2016; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, The educational needs of individuals do not end when the formal education process has ended; and

WHEREAS, Lifelong learning is the on-going voluntary and self-motivated pursuit of knowledge for either personal or professional purposes; and

WHEREAS, Lifelong learning enhances skills, knowledge, and employability; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Sponsor discussion groups and forums in their communities;
- Support adult educational programs in their communities;
- Encourage all adults to participate in lifelong learning programs.

150-080 Literacy (Convention 1983; Reaffirmed 1987; Amended and Reaffirmed 1988; Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Reviewed 2013; Amended 2017; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, Many adults suffer from functional illiteracy and cannot read or write well enough to take advantage of educational and occupational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Educational resources are not meeting the needs of literacy programs; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Advocate for the inclusion of basic reading skills training in all teacher certification programs;
- Support literacy programs in their communities and volunteer to teach children and adults to read and write;
- Encourage private-sector awareness, support, and funding of literacy programs;
- Support local, state, and federal funding of literacy programs.

150-090 Sex and Gender Equity in Education (Formerly “Educational Equity”; Convention 1993; Reviewed 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2004; Amended 2009; Amended 2013; Reviewed 2017; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 guarantees no person in the U.S. shall on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under, any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance; and

WHEREAS, Research indicates that students are being negatively impacted in educational programs by sex and gender role stereotyping; and

WHEREAS, A continued interest in education reform has grown out of an urgency to achieve excellence in education in order to remain competitive in the global marketplace; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Support expanded accountability in reporting all Title IX programs to the Department of Education;
- Support programs for all persons involved with the educational process, especially teachers and counselors, to learn effective gender-neutral teaching and counseling methods;
- Urge school districts to review curricula and textbooks to eliminate gender identity stereotyping;
- Undertake other activities that will make education equity a reality for all students.