

1 administrators, and governing boards. The plan should include provisions for recommendations from the
2 local school faculty. Recommendations should be based, as a minimum, upon achievement record, ability,
3 and age and should be developmentally appropriate for the student. (1976, 1995)

4 5 **B-6. Higher Education**

6 The National Education Association supports higher education as an essential part of the education
7 process. The Association believes that postsecondary education serves an invaluable function for
8 intellectual development, for research and scholarship, for career preparation, and for preparation for life.

9 The Association also supports access to postsecondary programs for all qualified students without
10 regard to age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identification, disability, race, military registration status,
11 or ability to pay. The Association also believes that postsecondary institutions should not penalize degree-
12 holding students who return to upgrade or develop new skills.

13 The Association further supports fully funded, guaranteed student loan and grant programs, including
14 fully funded health care insurance. Guaranteed loans should be made available for all students. Criteria
15 for grants should include the total financial situation of the family, other family members currently
16 enrolled in institutions of higher education, and parents'/guardians' ability to contribute financially.

17 The Association further believes that clear admission and graduation standards, careful student
18 counseling, tutorial and other support services, the right to complete coursework during or after the
19 quarter/semester missed due to documented extended illness, active participation of students in their own
20 learning, and a thoughtfully articulated curriculum can significantly help increase the number of students
21 successfully completing their degrees.

22 The Association believes that all courses must be offered with sufficient frequency and with a
23 sufficient number of sections to enable students to graduate within the time prescribed for each program.
24 (1980, 2002)

25 26 **EDUCATIONAL EQUITY**

27 28 **B-7. Class Size**

29 The National Education Association believes that excellence in the classroom can best be attained by
30 small class size.

31 The Association also believes in an optimum class size of fifteen students in regular programs and a
32 proportionately lower number in programs for students with exceptional needs. Class size maximums
33 must be based on the type of students, subject area content, physical facilities, and other criteria.
34 Weighted class size formulas should be implemented to reflect the inclusion of exceptional students. State
35 departments of education should collect and report class size data that reflect the class size experienced by
36 most students. (1982, 1997)

37 38 **B-8. Diversity**

39 The National Education Association believes that a diverse society enriches all individuals. Similarities
40 and differences among races, ethnicity, color, national origin, language, geographic location, religion,
41 gender, sexual orientation, gender identification, age, physical ability, size, occupation, and marital,
42 parental, or economic status form the fabric of a society.

43 The Association also believes that education should foster the values of appreciation and acceptance of
44 the various qualities that pertain to people as individuals and as members of diverse populations.

45 The Association further believes in the importance of observances, programs, and curricula that
46 accurately portray and recognize the roles, contributions, cultures, and history of these diverse groups and
47 individuals.

48 *The Association believes that legal rights and responsibilities with regard to medical decisions, taxes,*
49 *inheritance, adoption, legal immigration, domestic partnerships, and civil unions and/or marriage*
50 *belong to all of these diverse groups and individuals.*

51 The Association encourages affiliates and members to become part of programs and observances that
52 may include cultural and heritage celebrations and/or history months. (1995, 2006)

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