

SECTION 1 - SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

1:30 School District Philosophy

Mission Statement

The significance of the mission statement is to embody into a one-sentence statement the purpose and function of the School District. The mission statement is the keystone of the District and everything else is derived from and will be evaluated by the District's identified mission.

"Education that inspires...Opportunities for all"

Educational Philosophy

The Educational Philosophy statement represents the District's operational commitment to achieve results. The following statements represent the ethical code supporting the District's convictions and illustrate the ethical standards for behavior of the School District.

We Believe:

- Children are the first priority.
- Every decision and action must be based on the needs of children.
- Diverse opportunities and challenges allow for each student's gifts and talents to be discovered and encouraged.
- District 56 has the responsibility to offer a wide range of learning opportunities. Through experience in areas such as athletics, fine arts, and clubs, children can explore their interests and discover talents and joys beyond the routine education program.
- Each student's opportunity for independence and success is maximized through the emphasis of all essential life skills, including reading, writing and mathematics.
- District 56 has the responsibility to emphasize the basic and crucial skills of reading, writing, and mathematics whenever they are realistic goals for a student. An acknowledgement of and sensitivity to each student's individual abilities and potential must be an integral part of that student's educational path.
- In a learning community of integrity that promotes positive character and good citizenship.
- All members of the learning community practice respect and responsibility.
- An emotionally and physically comfortable, safe environment is most conducive for effective teaching and learning.

- The schools should be free of physical hazards, as well as, social and emotional threats. All members of the learning community are entitled to a mutually comfortable area, which encourages risk-taking and facilitates learning.
- In a learning community where students are supported to become self-directed, lifelong learners.
- We define a "learning community" as a place where cultural diversity is celebrated and academic needs are recognized and supported. This belief encourages students to use what they have learned and experienced to become critical and creative problem solvers.
- In the Optimal use of all resources.
- District 56 has the responsibility to maximize the talents and energies of all human resources within the community. In addition, we will efficiently utilize all available facilities, time, and finances.
- The alliance of home, school and community promotes student success.
- Everyone concerned with the child's development has a unique role in this partnership.

CROSS REF: 2:10 (School District Governance), 3:10 (Goals and Objectives), 6:10 (Educational Philosophy and Objectives)

ADOPTED: September 17, 2025

Gurnee SD 56