

Homedale Joint School District No. 370

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1000

District Philosophy and Goals

MISSION STATEMENT: To empower every student to develop and demonstrate essential academic, problem solving, technical, decision making, and social skills in order to become a productive, responsible citizen.

VISION STATEMENT: Everything we do is in the best interest of our students—we inspire them to dream toward a better future, and we equip them with the skills necessary to achieve those dreams.

MOTTO: Educating students daily for successful citizens tomorrow.

BELIEFS:

We believe:

- high achievement requires high expectations.
- quality education demands shared responsibility.
- all people are teachers and learners.
- quality results are achieved through collaboration and a commitment to common goals.
- the education of children demands a commitment to their physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development.
- a successful organization requires focus and disciplined participation.
- in the strength of diversity.
- democracy requires active participation by an informed citizenry.
- in the power of joyful learning.

PARAMETERS:

- The educational program will always take precedence over the other programs and services.
- We will make decisions based on the best interests of all students.
- We will continue to recruit the highest quality staff to meet the needs of the students.
- We will support and require staff development at all levels.
- We will be responsive to the diversity of our staff, students, and parents.
- We will evaluate all programs based on student progress.
- Site-level plans and decisions will support the mission and objectives of the Strategic Plan.

MORE SPECIFIC PHILOSOPHY:

1. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The Homedale School District believes in providing equal opportunity for learning regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, economic status, or intellectual ability of the student.

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2. *LEARNING ENVIRONMENT*

The Homedale School District will insure that the student has a safe and stimulating environment, and that order and conduct is maintained to guarantee all students the opportunity to learn.

3. *DISCIPLINE*

The Homedale School District will provide teachers with consistent support in the area of discipline. Discipline must be consistent, fair, and impartial.

Proper discipline will aid in teaching respect for authority. Today, more than ever, Homedale Schools need to emphasize the importance of respecting authority in order to maintain the values our democratic society embraces.

4. *TEACHING METHODS AND CURRICULUM*

The Homedale School District must insure that teaching methods and curriculum are both progressive and challenging to the student who is preparing to meet the rapidly changing demands of the future.

The student needs to be provided with the opportunity to prepare for the possibility of 1) higher education, 2) other post-secondary training, and/or 3) the current job market.

Teaching methods and curriculum need to consider both the learning abilities and differences of students.

5. *RECRUITMENT OF TEACHERS*

The Homedale School District will endeavor to hire qualified teachers that possess a conviction that the education of students is of utmost importance.

6. *PARENT INVOLVEMENT*

Homedale School District personnel recognize that parents have rights and responsibilities concerning their child's education. The school district encourages the input of patrons and parents.

SCHOOL DISTRICT GOALS:

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Goal: All students will achieve identified standards in reading, writing, and math as assessed annually using multiple measures. (see District Assessment Plan)

Goal: All students will demonstrate improved learning.

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Strategies:

- We will implement an aligned written, taught, tested, and reported curriculum that is intellectually rigorous and culturally diverse for each curricular area based on state/district standards.
- We will develop and implement a coordinated plan for the integration of curriculum at all grade levels.
- We will develop and implement a comprehensive district assessment plan.
- We will develop and implement the use of clearly defined district-wide benchmarks for all grade levels and curricular areas.
- We will develop, implement, and evaluate appropriate instructional programs based on individual student needs.
- We will research and address motivation issues.
- We will identify and implement multiple measures of accountability.

SYSTEM LEADERSHIP & CONTINUOUS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Goal: Conduct systematic processes that result in school improvement at all levels -- classroom through district.

Strategies:

- We will identify, collect, and analyze student and organizational performance data to guide decisions.
- We will report data to the community.
- The district will design and implement a comprehensive professional development program for all administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, and instructional assistants which integrates standards, curriculum, benchmarks, best practices in instruction, and assessment. This program will support staff growth and focus on effective delivery of services and strategies for retention of personnel.
- We will develop and implement a comprehensive system for evaluation of personnel, programs, and district improvement progress.
- We will implement board policies that support exemplary instructional practices and student achievement.
- We will implement and maintain a system-wide technology infrastructure, support system, and plan for usage at all levels. (Technology)
- We will implement programs to inform and/or instruct parents in order to involve families in the education process.
- We will ensure safe and orderly schools.
- We will design and implement plans to maximize funding, resources, and facilities.

Legal Reference: I.C. § 33-512 Governance of schools
I.C. § 33-1612 Thorough system of public schools

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Policy History:

Adopted on: 1-8-90
Amended & Adopted: 11-11-96
Amended & Adopted: 12-13-99
Amended & Adopted: 2-12-04
Amended & Adopted: 10-10-05

Prior Board Policy: 1.10