

[NOTE: PHILOSOPHY IS NOT POLICY. MSBA SUGGESTS REPEAL OF THIS POLICY]

696 PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

The philosophy of the school district is expressed in terms of the fundamental convictions, values and character of Independent School District No. 832. As a school district, *We Believe*:

- Everyone must be given the opportunity to learn.
- All people have the fundamental right to an education.
- We are born with a desire to learn.
- Everyone has the right to reach her/his full potential.
- Learning is a life-long activity.
- Schools exist to meet the educational needs of society.
- Education is a shared responsibility.
- Public education is a critical force in the shaping of our global future.
- Self-esteem is a prerequisite to self-fulfillment.
- Learners must be partners in planning their education.
- Learners are the primary focus of schools.
- All learners must be challenged to excel.
- Education must prepare us for the future.
- Everyone has the right to be treated with dignity.
- Education must provide the opportunities for all learners to feel success.
- All learners have the right to a safe learning environment.
- Excellence requires commitment.

- Education must anticipate and respond to change.
- Ethics and values are an integral part of education.
- The learning environment must be respected and protected.
- All learners must be taught to think critically.

MISSION

[NOTE: THIS MISSION IS DIFFERENT FROM THE MISSION STATEMENT IN POLICY 104. PLEASE REVIEW BOTH AND CHOOSE THE MISSION STATEMENT YOU WANT TO KEEP.]

The Mission of the Mahtomedi School District No. 832, as a multi-community public school system, is to provide individually challenging, life-long learning experiences for all people, leading to productive and self-fulfilling roles in a global society, accomplished through partnerships with students, families, staff and communities all committed to excellence.

PARAMETERS

[NOTE: I SUGGEST THESE PARAMETERS BE INCORPORATED INTO THE SCHOOL BOARD'S CODE OF ETHICS (POLICY 209) OR BE MADE A LOCAL BOARD POLICY IN THE 200 SERIES.]

The Parameters for Independent School District No. 832 recognize that the school district operates within certain natural constraints or limitations. These limitations must guide the development as the school district plans. In that regard, *We Will*:

- Not violate state and federal laws.
- Not make arbitrary and capricious decisions.
- Make responsible decisions.
- Not duplicate services that other agencies are more effectively providing.
- Not make decisions regarding educational programs without:
 1. Conducting a cost and benefit analysis.
 2. Providing for input from those affected.
 3. Evaluating its relationship to the mission of the school district.

LEARNER GOALS

[NOTE: THESE LEARNER GOALS SHOULD BE REVIEWED AND INCORPORATED WITH POLICY 601]

The Independent School District No. 832 Board of Education has adopted these goals as a general statement of the purpose for public education, as a means of describing the type of person who would graduate from the Mahtomedi Public Schools, and as a guide for all curriculum areas when developing program and course objectives.

RECOGNIZING INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES IN ABILITY, PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH, INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 832 WILL PROVIDE AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM SO EACH STUDENT WILL:

A. Develop and Use Reading, Writing, Speaking, Mathematics and Technology Skills.

1. Develop the skills to read and to comprehend what is read.
2. Use language effectively in interaction with others, gaining and improving skills in group communication processes.
3. Acquire the skills to communicate clearly in writing.
4. Acquire, interpret and evaluate information through purposeful and critical observation and listening.
5. Know and apply mathematical processes and computation skills appropriate to the current and future personal, occupational and educational needs.

B. Understand and Be Involved in a Democratic Society.

1. Acquire a knowledge, understanding and appreciation of and for our country's heritage.
2. Learn and practice respect for the personal rights and private property of other citizens.
3. Understand and exercise individual rights and responsibilities as provided in the Constitution, state and federal law, and the judicial system.
4. Acquire the knowledge and understanding for active participation in public policy-making processes at the local, state and federal government levels.
5. Understand and apply economic principles to construct, evaluate and revise alternatives for personal and societal goals, plans, or programs, considering costs and benefits to self and to others.

6. Develop an understanding of the political, economic and social patterns of other people, countries and cultures.
- C. Develop the Work Readiness Skills Necessary to Lead a Productive Life and Actively Contribute to the Economic Well Being of our Society.
1. Apply the basic skills of communications, computation and scientific principles to real life situations in a technological society.
 2. Define and interpret the nature of the work force in terms of one's own challenges and opportunities.
 3. Develop the leadership and citizenship skills necessary to succeed as an active agent in a changing work force.
 4. Understand employment opportunities, job seeking and keeping skills, and specific work skills as they relate to transition from school to economic productivity.
 5. Develop pride in good work and expect quality in products and services.
 6. Adopt a positive attitude toward work, including an acceptance of the necessity of making a living and an appreciation of the social value and dignity of work.
 7. Apply consumer information in making decisions for personal and family economic well-being.
- D. Develop a Knowledge and Understanding of the Balance Among People, the Environment, and the Natural and Physical Sciences.
1. Recognize the social, economic, ecological and political implications of population growth, energy use and food supplies.
 2. Develop an individual understanding and commitment to responsible practices to consider a balance between environmental quality and the economic, social and physical needs of people.
 3. Develop the skill to apply scientific knowledge, methods and principles in problem solving and inquiry processes to resolve environmental issues.
 4. Develop an awareness of the role of science in contributing answers to environmental health and human problems.
- E. Develop the Ability to Secure, Analyze, Synthesize and Use Information Effectively.

1. Develop research skills to locate information for current or future personal or occupational use.
 2. Develop the processing skills necessary for manipulation of data as part of creative problem solving analysis and decision making.
 3. Identify and solve problems through creative, constructive and critical thinking.
 4. Develop the ability to examine and use information in a constructive and meaningful manner.
- F. Develop the Ability for Creative Expression in One or More of the Fine Arts and an Appreciation for the Aesthetic Expression in the Art of Others.
1. Develop the ability to express themselves through art, music, writing, dance, or drama.
 2. Cultivate an appreciation and knowledge of various art forms.
- G. Develop the Skills, Knowledge and Understanding for Enhancing Self-esteem, Responsible Behavior and Respect for Others.
1. Develop qualities of self-confidence and self-respect.
 2. Discover and develop individual, intellectual, physical and emotional capabilities.
 3. Develop self-discipline skills in work, study and recreational activities.
 4. Assume responsibility for being an effective member of a group.
 5. Recognize and respect human differences.
- H. Develop a Positive Attitude Toward Self.
1. Assume responsibility for personal actions.
 2. Develop a feeling of positive self-worth, security and self-assurance.
 3. Develop an acceptance of one's strengths and weaknesses.
 4. Develop a knowledge of one's own body and a positive attitude toward one's own physical appearance.
 5. Understand that efforts to develop a better self contribute to the development of a better society.

6. Recognize that self-concept is acquired by interaction with other people.
7. Demonstrate appropriate control or release of emotions.
8. Develop the ability to initiate and cope with change.
9. Develop the ability to set and acquire personal goals.
10. Develop a curiosity, willingness and eagerness to continue learning.

I. Lead a Healthy, Fulfilling Life.

1. Assume responsibility for one's own physical and mental health and safety by establishing a daily regime of positive health behaviors which will maintain mental and physical health and motor fitness.
2. Make informed decisions about health products and services.
3. Make lifestyle decisions which promote healthful personal and family living.
4. Understand public health measures and their effect on the individual, family, community and the environment.
5. Enjoy play-skill activities which include understanding, cooperation, accepting rules, controlling emotions, following group process and acquiring self-satisfaction.

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