

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY/MISSION

As advocates for children, the Board recognizes that the thorough and efficient education of children is its primary statutory-based responsibility. To this end, the Board considers proper and adequate support of schools to be a civic responsibility shared by all citizens.

The School Department will provide an educational environment designed to encourage each student to acquire the necessary skills and perspectives needed for a meaningful life and career. All schools will strive to encourage students to form desirable habits that are necessary for them to become responsible, informed citizens. In general, we aim to have students develop attitudes and practices necessary for satisfying, worthwhile lives.

We believe that all children must be provided equal but not identical opportunities to allow them to achieve at levels commensurate with their abilities. We believe that all students must learn in an environment which allows them to develop positive attitudes toward themselves and genuine respect for others.

A rigorous core curriculum designed to achieve specific learning outcomes will be provided. It will be planned with the goal of creating and maintaining standards which will furnish students with the skills necessary for success in a global society while giving them a broad educational foundation compatible with their interests, aptitudes and aims. The curriculum and graduation requirements will be regularly evaluated to ensure their continued appropriateness.

In order to achieve our goals and to implement this philosophy, we believe that all schools must secure the involvement of the community, students, staff, parents and citizens. Educational responsibility must be shared with important community institutions. We strongly believe that our school system's success depends on good rapport and cooperation with our communities and its institutions.

The Board recognizes the professional staff as the body that is legally charged with the responsibility of providing education to all children.

The Educational Philosophy/Mission is reflected in the School Department Goals (ADA) and in the School Board Goals that follow:

Goal 1: Select, work with, and evaluate the superintendent;

Goal 2: Serve as advocates for all children, teachers, and other staff by adopting "kids first" goals, policies, and budget;

Goal 3: Maintain fiscal responsibility and fiscal autonomy, with the authority to appropriate local funds necessary to support the board-approved budget;

Goal 4: Delegate to the superintendent the day-to-day administration of the school district, including discipline and all personnel matters;

Goal 5: Evaluate the Board's own leadership, governance, and teamwork for children;

Goal 6: Shape the aspects of the school system based on the values and desires of the community.

The Board fully accepts the responsibility of formulating policies and acquiring adequate funding to support the education process. The Board will always consider the welfare of students as the single most important factor in making decisions relative to educational policy. It will be the responsibility of the Board and administrators to promote sound educational practices and professional development.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA, §§ 1001 et seq.; 4511.3, A

Adopted: Prior to 1986

Revised: February 25, 1988
October 3, 2002
August 19, 2012

Reviewed: January 7, 2015