

Descriptor Term: BOARD OPERATIONS; GOALS AND OBJECTIVES; MISSION STATEMENT

Descriptor Code: BA/IA

Rescinds: BA

Board Approved: 7/6/2021

Previously Approved: 7/1/2013

I. Mission and Belief Statement

The mission of the Gulfport School District is to inspire each student to become a problem solver, lifelong learner, and productive member of society.

Belief Statements:

- all people are responsible for the choices they make;
- family is the most powerful influence on children and society;
- all people can learn, but at different rates and in different ways;
- self-worth and self-respect are essential to self-fulfillment;
- high expectations yield higher achievement;
- there is basic worth in every individual;
- education provides access to unlimited opportunities; and
- learning is a lifelong process.

II. Guiding Principles For Mission Planning (Effective Schools Correlates)

To help fulfill this mission, the Gulfport School District will develop and implement a five-year educational improvement plan which will be driven by the correlates derived from Effective Schools research. These correlates will constitute the guiding principles for curriculum planning, staff assignments, staff development, provision of supportive services, assessment and evaluation of educational processes and productivity, and development of school board policies. Each of these correlates will be in evidence in each school in the District. These correlates are:

- A. a safe and orderly school climate,
- B. instructional leadership demonstrated by the school principal,
- C. high expectations of teachers for learning success of students,
- D. academic achievement strongly emphasized,
- E. frequent monitoring of student progress,
- F. supportive home-school relations, and
- G. equal educational opportunities for every student

III. Strategic Results - By 2023:

- A. All students will be pursuing their goals of further education, vocational training, military service, or other chosen endeavor within one year of leaving high school.
- B. All students will actively and continuously choose to set and achieve their goals.
- C. All students will systematically solve problems in their school and personal lives and accept responsibility for their choices.
- D. All students will meet or exceed the academic requirements of the local, state, and federal accountability standards.

IV. Strategies - We will:

- A. develop ongoing funding and budgeting processes to achieve our Strategic Results.
- B. develop, through families, community agencies and child-centered facilities, trust, acceptance and continued support of and a contribution to our Strategic Results and Mission.
- C. hire, inspire, and retain personnel, including leaders at all levels who exemplify the skills, attitudes, and behaviors necessary to achieve our Strategic Results.
- D. implement any changes in our organizational structure which may be necessary to achieve our Strategic Results.

V. Strategic Delimiters - We will not:

- A. allow or accept any new program or initiative that is:
 - 1. not consistent with or does not contribute to our Mission
 - 2. not accompanied by the means to assess its effectiveness
- B. recruit, employ or retain staff unless they embrace our belief statements and work toward the achievement of our Mission.

VI. Application

This mission statement, together with all of its supportive elements as stated above, will be understood to apply as appropriate to all schools, classrooms, programs, operations, and personnel of the District.

VI. Amendment and Revision

This mission statement and its supporting elements will be under constant scrutiny to determine appropriate revisions so that it may accurately reflect the educational philosophy and practice of the Gulfport School District. At the discretion of the Board of Trustees, as need may arise, such revisions will be accomplished.