EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY, GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The Board of Education of the Somers Central School District is dedicated to educating students to develop desired moral, ethical, and cultural values, to stimulate and expand a continual learning process, and to cultivate an understanding and appreciation of the rights and responsibilities of American citizens, which will enable them to function effectively as independent individuals in a democratic society.

The educational programs will provide each child with the fundamental academic skills and basic knowledge required for their maximum educational development, the opportunity for each child to develop their interests and abilities to the fullest extent according to their individual potential, and special services to promote the physical, mental, and emotional development of each child. It is the district's goal to foster in students good work habits, independent thinking ability, integrity, self-discipline, good sportsmanship, self-confidence, a sense of purpose, and a strong sense of self-worth. Extracurricular activities will be offered when possible to enhance the academic program.

The Board encourages parents and teachers to offer their expertise in helping to develop a school environment that is academically challenging, psychologically satisfying and socially fulfilling for students at all levels. The objectives of an educational program are best realized when mutual understanding, cooperation, and effective communications exist among the home, community and school supporting a positive academic culture.

Mission:
Somers Central School District will ignite a passion in each student by engaging students at a personal level to ensure success in a global society.

Vision:
The vision for SCSD encompasses three fundamental areas, each an important component of the Whole Child:
- 21st Century Knowledge & Skills
- Social-Emotional-Physical Wellness
- Global Citizenship

Our Values
We desire to be a school district that —
- Values diversity, equity, and inclusion across all schools.
- Promotes our schools as the center of our community – a safe place to be and grow.
- Leads by example and encourages students to follow their passions.
- Holds high expectations for student achievement and character.
- Develops a k-12 curriculum, instructional resources, and assessments intended to prepare students to thrive in a global community.
- Recognizes and celebrates the collective efforts and achievements of the Somers community and embraces a healthy balance of participation from all stakeholders.
- Supports social/emotional/physical wellness as much as academic achievement.
- Recognizes the arts are vital to the core curriculum.
- Gives back to the community through service to others.
- Understands the law, the constitution, and our civic, ethical and personal responsibilities to each other.
- Develops relationships that are characterized by honesty, respect and integrity.
- Learns from and works collaboratively with individuals from diverse cultures, religions and lifestyles in a spirit of mutual respect and open dialogue.
- Supports and encourages professional collaboration, district-wide and with local organizations, to promote student learning.
- Is driven by a sense of continuous improvement.

**Goals and Objectives:**

To further its educational philosophy, the Board of Education establishes the following goals and objectives:

1. to create an environment wherein students are motivated to learn and utilize critical thinking skills;
2. to employ the best possible school staff, including both professional and support personnel;
3. to develop instructional programs and teaching techniques which are effective in all curriculum areas of language, reading and mathematics, and special subjects such as STEM and arts, inclusive of grouping arrangements;
4. to enable students to master the basic skills of communication, computation and reasoning;
5. to minimize as much as possible the labeling of students at each end of the spectrum, while providing programs for their particular needs and/or talents;
6. to provide educational programs and services which fulfill the needs of the district and comply with Commissioner's regulations;
7. to provide a coordinated program from grade to grade wherein instruction in new knowledge and skills is both sequential and incremental, and which continually reviews that which has been taught are reviewed and tracked for effectiveness;
8. to prepare students both physically and psychologically for the transition from one learning center to another; that is, from kindergarten to primary; from primary to Intermediate; from intermediate to junior high; and from junior high to senior high to be ready for higher education and/or employment;
9. to provide special programs in music, fine arts, practical arts, and the performing arts which develop innate talents in students;
10. to provide the necessary technology, such as computer programming, through internal school programs or external work-study programs or higher education offerings, that students may gain exposure and preparation for a highly technological society;
11. to instill in students an understanding and appreciation for the humanities and the world around us;
12. to promote in students, through positive action and special programs, positive behavior and respect for others;
13. to instill in students an understanding of citizenship, its rights and responsibilities;
14. to instill a knowledge of the environment and our responsibility for it;
15. to promote the development of a "community school" in services to community members who are not part of the regularly attending student body; and
16. to prepare students for immediate employment or post-secondary education.

The achievement of these goals shall be monitored through the establishment of measurable objectives by the administrators and professional staff, with an annual progress report submitted to the Board.

Adoption date: November 22, 1993
Revised: November 26, 2019