

BELIEFS

(The district's belief statements are codified in this policy after adoption by the Board.)

Grand Coulee Dam School District Strategic Plan 2003 - 2009

As members of the Grand Coulee Dam School District community, we are committed to the following:

Education plays a critical role in the quality of life experienced by our children. Parents should have confidence in the quality of the education their children receive.

As parents, we are responsible for raising our children according to our values ... our schools are responsible for reinforcing the skills and values taught by parents. These strong values need to be part of our community's fabric.

Our children must be empowered with the skills to be responsible for their own learning.

Good citizenship, character development and integrity are foundational to our educational system and should be emphasized in the classroom and extracurricular activities.

Our students must be accountable for their choices by helping them understand healthy, logical consequences.

Our cultural diversity is a strength that our community and our schools embrace.

We further believe ...

All students must come to school prepared to learn.

Children have different strengths and values, and that our approach to excellence should be more synergistic as opposed to an adversarial approach. We must work together to understand "the root" of a problem in order to see a clear solution. To reach our mission, we need to focus on the solution, not the problem.

Smaller class sizes allow each child to adequately learn. Teachers are trained and equipped to provide for the nurturing of each child's emotional needs.

Our children should be taught "how to think," not "what to think."

Quality extra-curricular activities play an important role in our children's educational experience.

Children must be exposed to a culturally balanced and unbiased curriculum which incorporates the history and knowledge of other people's cultures. This must be reflected not only in history, but also in geography, language arts, music, science and other subjects, while following the current national and statewide emphasis on academic reform.

Our curriculum should recognize that creativity and imagination, as well as hands-on activities, are essential to knowledge

The primary responsibility for religious teaching or values resides with our parents and families, and the recognition of God or Creator needs to be part of our community's fabric.

The early identification of students with behavioral problems and other special needs is critical to providing meaningful interventions for these students.

Our school district can be strengthened through a diverse teaching, administration and support staff.

Our community is a key resource for students through volunteerism, job placements, internships and job-training partnerships. As a district, we will work hard to mobilize, invite, recognize, train and retain great volunteers.

Grand Coulee Dam School District

Adoption Date: **February, 1993**

Revised: **7.10**