



NEURODIVERSITY PHILOSOPHY

The Board of Education of the Boulder Valley School District adopts the following statement of philosophy regarding neurodiversity:

Boulder Valley School District recognizes all students as unique individuals with diverse learning styles, abilities, and needs. Neurodiversity describes the natural variation of human brains and nervous systems and the differences in how people gather, process, and interpret their sensory and cognitive experiences. Neurodiversity explains the richness and complexity of the human brain and a person's lived experiences as inherently neutral, not positive or negative, and as facets of individual identity. BVSD ~~values~~believes each person's unique neuro-identity and lived experience ~~ity as a source of strength that~~ enriches our community and contributes to its-our collective success.

Education serves a vital role in encouraging and enabling individuals to develop their full potential. BVSD is committed to creating inclusive and equitable learning environments and school communities that respect the unique experiences, ~~and~~ perspectives, and learning needs of all students. -To create neuro-affirming learning environments, BVSD embraces the following principles:

On agency: Students will be involved in their learning experience and given reasonable opportunities to make choices in topic, process and product.

On belonging: Schools will strive to create learning environments that promote students' sense of fit with their academic context as members of their school communities and their ability to thrive within it as their authentic selves.

On collaboration: BVSD will partner with students, families, and staff, ~~and community members~~ to ~~address the unique learning needs of each student and to~~ create meaningful and engaging opportunities for each student.

On connection: Students will be encouraged to find connection with educators, peers, and their school communities; Educators will be encouraged to help facilitate each student's pursuit of connection.

On differentiation: Schools will proactively support students through equitable and accessible instructional design- and practices that incorporate educational research, including current and neuro-affirming research. ~~differentiated instruction and universal design for learning that incorporates scientific insights into how people learn and strategies to affirm a student's identity, rather than trying to "fix" or "cure" them.~~

On safety: BVSD will create learning environments that support students' physical, emotional, psychological, and social safety.

On self-advocacy: Students will be empowered to recognize, learn about, and advocate for their needs.