



Lawrence Public Schools

Policy of the School Committee

Section A: FOUNDATIONS AND BASIC COMMITMENTS

AD

Subject: EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

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POLICY STATEMENT

The Lawrence Public Schools is assuming more responsibility for its students than schools a generation ago. Changes in American society have brought about increased demands for services to students over and above the traditional Basic Educational Program.

It remains the philosophy of the Lawrence Public Schools to educate its children to realize their total physical, social, emotional and intellectual potential -- to make them responsible contributing citizens, adaptive to their environment and capable of changing it where change would benefit themselves and their community.

All students who attend the Lawrence Public Schools shall:

1. Have a positive self-image;
2. Reach for the peak of their intellectual ability;
3. Be a creative, thinking person who is sensitive to the feelings and culture of others;
4. Be able to deal effectively with his/her environment;
5. Be equipped to have a meaningful career;
6. Be able to use his/her leisure time to advantage; and
7. Be happy and well adjusted.

It is the intention of the Lawrence Public Schools to make every effort in the future, both within and outside the academic curriculum, to expose each child to a variety of experiences and produce a young adult who will be a credit to himself or herself, his/her parents/guardians, his/her school system, and his/her community.

The School Committee recognizes the problem of providing equal educational opportunities to all has both economic and ethnic dimensions and is not subject to easy, quick solutions. Because it believes that schools must continue to move forward in finding solutions, the School Committee recommends intensified action and the application of new knowledge and expertise as such becomes available.

We are especially concerned that our programmatic offerings be of the highest caliber. We shall revise certain programs, disseminate others, and adopt new programs to guarantee our students have available to them the broadest range of educational services possible, in short, that each of our students receives a quality education.

Within the community there exists a vast reservoir of skills, knowledge, and expertise. It is the intention of the Lawrence Public Schools to provide ways in which to tap business, community, and parental expertise and to involve all parties and constituents in our educational delivery system.

The School Committee endorses the concept that community participation in the affairs of schools is essential if the school district and the community are to maintain mutual confidence and respect and work together to improve the quality of education for all students.

It also believes that effective citizen participation cannot be obtained if citizens may participate in decision-making only at the district level. To respond fully to the needs and concerns of community groups, individual schools must work closely with their own school communities.

It is the Committee's goal to make available to students in the Lawrence Public Schools a wide range of classroom and field-based activities that will satisfy their physical, intellectual, emotional, and social needs and will prepare them for productive lives in their future.

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1st Reading as revised: 2/10/05

2nd Reading as revised: 4/7/05

Adoption: 4/14/05

Proposed reconsideration: 9/09



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ADA

Subject: LAWRENCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS EDUCATIONAL GOALS

1 of 2

POLICY STATEMENT

LAWRENCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS EDUCATIONAL GOALS

Education in the Lawrence Public Schools should enable the learner to achieve the following:

1. High Student Achievement

- a. Develop communicative skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing
- b. Develop the ability to communicate ideas and feelings effectively
- c. Develop skills in the use of numbers and mathematical concepts
- d. Develop a background of information and concepts in science, history and social sciences

2. Emotional Well-Being

- a. Develop a positive self-image
- b. Develop self-discipline and self-control
- c. Develop pride in his/her accomplishment

3. Physical Well-Being

- a. Develop sound nutritional and hygienic habits
- b. Develop effective individual, lifetime physical fitness habits

4. Effective Use of Knowledge

- a. Cultivate intellectual curiosity and development
- b. Develop the ability to reason and proceed logically
- c. Develop the ability to think creatively and solve problems

5. Desire for Lifelong Learning

- a. Develop a positive attitude toward learning
- b. Develop an eagerness for lifelong learning
- c. Develop the skills necessary to pursue independent learning

6. Citizenship in a Democratic Society

- a. Develop an awareness of civic rights and responsibilities
- b. Develop an attitude of respect for personal and public property
- c. Develop an understanding of our American heritage
- d. Develop a commitment to American democratic ideals

7. Respect for the Community

- a. Develop an appreciation and respect for the worth and dignity of the individual
- b. Develop an awareness of the equality and interdependence of races, creeds, nations and cultures
- c. Develop an understanding of the political, economic and social ideologies of the rest of the world

8. Career Education

- a. Develop an awareness of the dignity of work and appreciation of good workmanship
- b. Develop an appreciation of the positive contribution that every type of work makes to society
- c. Develop self-understanding and self-direction in relation to occupational interests
- d. Develop an awareness of opportunities and requirements related to specific fields of work
- e. Develop abilities and skills needed for productive employment

9. Understanding the Environment

- a. Develop attitudes and behavior leading to the appreciation and intelligent use of the environment
- b. Develop knowledge and understanding of the social, physical, and biological worlds and the balance between humans and their environment
- c. Develop skills in the management and preservation of natural and human resources within our environment
- d. Develop the ability to adjust to the changing demands of society

10. Individual Values and Attitudes

- a. Develop moral responsibility and sound ethical behavior
- b. Develop the capacity to discipline oneself, and to know how to work, study and play constructively
- c. Develop an awareness of the role and responsibility of the family as the basic unit of society

11. Creative Interests

- a. Cultivate an appreciation for the beauty in nature and the arts
- b. Develop creative self-expression and awareness of special talents within each individual
- c. Develop interests that will lead to wise and enjoyable use of leisure time

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