

Book Policy Manual
Section 000 Local Board Procedures
Title Board Philosophy/Principles for Governance and Leadership
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Board Philosophy

The Board of Education has adopted the following philosophy of education as the guiding foundation for the Upper St. Clair public schools:

1. To provide the finest educational program possible in a fiscally conscientious way;
2. The District will be staffed with a well trained administration to provide dynamic educational leadership;
3. To provide the best qualified teachers and to encourage professional growth;
4. To develop and promote among the students a full appreciation for the ideals of our American representative republic;
5. To construct and maintain proper facilities that enhance the District's educational programs and are operated in an economical manner, consistent with efficient management; and
6. To develop a rigorous and academically stimulating curriculum that includes tangible and measurable goals as a prerequisite designed to meet the educational needs of all students. In implementing this curriculum, all instructional processes will be designed according to the concept of continuous progress, i.e. each student shall be taught according to the individual's rate and level of achievement.

Principles for Governance and Leadership

This Board policy supports the Principles for Governance and Leadership adopted by the Board and signed by individual school directors.

Pennsylvania school boards are committed to providing every student the opportunity to grow and achieve. The actions taken by the board ultimately have both short and long-term impact in the classroom. Therefore, school directors collectively and individually will . . .

Advocate Earnestly

- Promote public education as a keystone of democracy
- Engage the community by seeking input, building support networks, and generating action
- Champion public education by engaging members of local, state and federal legislative bodies

Lead Responsibly

- Prepare for, attend and actively participate in board meetings
- Work together in a spirit of harmony, respect and cooperation
- Participate in professional development, training and board retreats
- Collaborate with the Superintendent as the Team of 10

Govern Effectively

- Adhere to an established set of rules and procedures for board operations
- Develop, adopt, revise and review policy
- Align decisions to policy
- Differentiate between governance and management, delegating management tasks to administration
- Allocate finances and resources
- Ensure compliance with local, state and federal laws

Plan Thoughtfully

- Adopt and implement a collaborative comprehensive planning process, including regular reviews
- Set annual goals that are aligned with the comprehensive plan
- Develop a financial plan that anticipates both short and long-term needs
- Formulate a master facilities plan conducive to teaching and learning

Evaluate Continuously

- Utilize appropriate data to make informed decisions
- Use effective practices for the evaluation of the Superintendent
- Assess student growth and achievement
- Review effectiveness of the comprehensive plan

Communicate Clearly

- Promote open, honest and respectful dialogue among the board, staff and community
- Encourage input and support for the district from the school community
- Protect confidentiality
- Honor the sanctity of executive session

Act Ethically

- Never use the position for improper benefit to self or others
- Act to avoid actual or perceived conflicts of interest
- Recognize the absence of authority outside of the collective board
- Respect the role, authority and input of the Superintendent
- Balance the responsibility to provide educational programs with being stewards of community resources
- Abide by the majority decision

Replaces Policy 1001 - Philosophy of the Board of Education adopted May 23, 1967 and revised January 13, 1975 and October 22, 2007