

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

It shall be the philosophy of the Pittsylvania County School Board to provide equal opportunity for every student to achieve maximum intellectual, social, emotional and physical growth, to ensure that each individual be equipped to communicate effectively with other people, to be competent both in the work place and in higher education, and to feel confident of the ability to make creative and constructive decisions in his/her life.

It shall be the policy of the School Board to:

- ❑ Adopt and ensure implementation of policies that support the Pittsylvania County Strategic Plan for Education;
- ❑ Provide the necessary trained and dedicated leadership, highly qualified personnel, equipment and materials to assure an appropriate education for every student;
- ❑ Treat all personnel equally with the highest degree of respect;
- ❑ Appropriate funds equally; and
- ❑ Assume continuous maintenance and upgrades of facilities and equipment.

The Pittsylvania County School Division seeks to provide an education that will prepare the young people of the communities that it serves to become productive, collaborative members within our society. Learning is the primary purpose of the Pittsylvania County Schools. This occurs through the mastery of basic skills in reading, writing, mathematics, science, social studies and other disciplines. The educational program is also designed to develop in the individual student practical knowledge and attitudes, to instill values that enrich life now and in the future, to develop positive control over one's thoughts and actions, to foster attitudes of justice and democracy, to emphasize interest in community and world problems, to develop a healthy body, and to develop cultural and aesthetic appreciation. The philosophy is in agreement with the Standards of Quality, Standards of School Accreditation, Standards of Learning, No Child Left Behind legislation and other state and federal guidelines. The division accepts the responsibility of accountability and continuous evaluation of programs and personnel. The principles of this philosophy are a guide for improving the total educational program.

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Statement of Philosophy

We believe that schools serve communities. We encourage the community and home to become involved and share in the development and operation of a functional educational program for all citizens.

It is our responsibility to assist in discovering, developing and channeling the students' talents and abilities for the welfare and benefit of the individual and society. We believe that each student is an individual with worth, rights, dignity and needs, and each should have the opportunity to develop his/her potential under the supervision of academically competent, professional and dedicated personnel.

The purpose of the school division is to provide a curriculum that is based on research which reflects student needs and economics and social trends. We believe in instruction that is continuous and coordinated from one level to another and enables students to read and to use all areas of language arts correctly and fluently. The curriculum should assist students to develop problem-solving abilities and use mathematical operations and concepts with meaning and accuracy, to gain satisfaction from drawing conclusions based on analytical thinking, to understand social studies and science in relation to positive and realistic self-concept and to acquire habits for sound health and safe living. The curriculum should incorporate the teaching of democracy and human relations and provide a model for citizenship, responsibilities and purposeful living.

The responsibility of all educational personnel is to provide a sound education that develops academic, career and technical, creative and technological skills which foster respect for learning, a desire for knowledge and the development of collaborative contributors in a culturally diverse world. The educational program should be designed to prepare each student for advanced study and employment. The success and value of the school's program is determined by its worth to the students and the society it serves. The Pittsylvania County School Division is committed to providing a safe and secure learning and working environment for all students and staff. To fulfill that commitment to safety, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall develop and implement a comprehensive school safety and crisis management plan which shall comply with and enforce all applicable State and federal laws, rules, and regulations.

Objectives

- To provide an innovative, challenging and exemplary educational program;

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- To facilitate full accreditation of all Pittsylvania County Schools and achieve recognition as a highly distinguished school division;
- To provide a comprehensive educational program based on the interests, abilities, needs and goals of the students;
- To involve the home and community in the total educational program;
- To emphasize and provide for student mastery of the basic skills of language arts and mathematics;
- To develop students' skills of rational and critical thinking;
- To develop students' abilities to apply and transfer knowledge;
- To enhance student acquisition of knowledge and process skills of science and technology, social studies, literature and language;
- To develop in students the attitudes and skills for enhancing the quality of the environment;
- To teach skills and instill knowledge in students needed for education and/or employment beyond high school;
- To provide an educational program where students progress on the basis of achievement;
- To provide a program of continuing education based on professional, vocational and avocational needs of adults;
- To provide for students' development of habits of good sportsmanship, personal standards of ethical behavior and moral choice, sound mental and physical health and safe living;
- To instill cultural competency and foster respect for diversity;
- To develop students' basic understanding and appreciation of country, the democratic process and respect for authority;

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- To facilitate student participation in society as responsible family members and citizens;
- To stimulate students' creativity and the development of skills, knowledge and attitudes for the fine arts;
- To help each student develop a positive and realistic concept of self and others, a recognition and acceptance of potentials and limitations and self-discipline;
- To encourage research and innovations for continuous improvement in curriculum and instructional methods that provide a thorough educational program;
- To provide ongoing evaluation and revision of educational philosophy and objectives;
- To involve business, industry and government in the total educational program;
- To develop effective leadership and group skills which foster and sustain relationships with others in culturally diverse work, community and family settings; and
- To instill within community stakeholders the value of quality education.

Commitment

The Pittsylvania County School Division is committed to providing an educational program appropriate to meet the needs of all students according to their capabilities and interests. To accomplish this goal, the school division shall maintain highly qualified staff and provide balanced educational opportunities to help all students grow intellectually, physically, socially and morally.

ADOPTED: December 12, 1995

REVISED: September 9, 2003
April 12, 2005

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Legal Refs: Constitution of Virginia, Article VIII, Section 7.
Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Sections 22.1-78, 22.1-79, 22.1-85,
22.1-293, 22.1-295
8 VAC 20-131-20.

Cross Refs.: AC, Non-Discrimination
GB, Equal Employment Opportunity/Non-Discrimination
GBA, Sexual Harassment/Harassment Based on Race, National Origin,
Disability and Religion
KP, Parental Involvement in Education
JB, Equal Educational Opportunities
JFHA, Sexual Harassment/Harassment Based on Race, National Origin,
Disability and Religion