

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

The Lafayette Parish School Board, an elected policy-making group, has the responsibility for operating the public schools of the parish. This responsibility includes the selection of the superintendent, approval of the curriculum, the establishment of philosophy and goals, budget approval, and the building program. The Board recognizes the responsibility to prepare all students for full and free participation in a democratic society. It further recognizes that the development of knowledge and skills based on challenging standards, self-discipline, citizenship, career preparation, technical competence, and a basic understanding and appreciation of culture are fundamental to a quality education.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The primary purpose of the elementary schools shall be instruction in the basic subjects: reading, language arts, and mathematics. While the majority of the instructional day should be directed to these pursuits, social studies, science, integrated technology, foreign languages, music, the arts, physical education, health and safety are other curricular offerings for elementary-aged students. The Board views the teaching of all subjects at a challenging instructional level as the primary objective for each child. This objective is consistent with state priorities in education which incorporates communication and technology skills that are taught and reinforced in conjunction with all subjects. It shall be the goal of our elementary staff to promote maximum skills attainment and to foster self-concept development prior to advancement to middle school.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

The middle school program should continue to build on the foundation developed in elementary school and provide transitional experiences for pre-adolescent and adolescent youth. Language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, health and physical education provide the basic components for a middle school program. In addition to the core subjects, middle schools shall offer courses in the following areas: family and consumer science, the arts, technology education, and foreign languages. The Board supports various clubs, organizations and extracurricular activities which complement the middle school program.

HIGH SCHOOL

The School Board shall maintain a comprehensive, quality high school program designed to meet the needs of all students within our community. The School Board recognizes the value of student involvement in co-curricular and extracurricular activities. It supports student organizations and teams providing opportunities for success and service that complement the academic program.

SPECIAL STUDENTS

The Board shall provide education and training facilities and opportunities for children with disabilities (regardless of the severity of the disabilities), birth through 21 years of age, and each student suspected to be gifted or talented, three through 21 years of age, residing within its

jurisdiction. Lafayette Parish is responsible for providing, or causing to be provided, a free appropriate public education to each eligible exceptional student who resides within its jurisdiction except those voluntarily enrolled in a nonpublic school program.

SUMMARY

The Lafayette Parish School Board is committed to the community education concept recognizing that education is a lifelong process. The Board is dedicated to the firm enforcement of the student discipline code in a uniform and consistent manner. This insures that an academic atmosphere will prevail in our schools. The ultimate goal of the School Board is to provide instructional, enrichment, and recreational programs for the children and citizens of our community through the efficient expenditure of available funds.

VISION

The Lafayette Parish School System will become a leader in improving performance for all students.

MISSION

The Lafayette Parish School System is committed to developing functional members of society and, through collaborative efforts among stakeholders, provide a quality education for all students.

BELIEF STATEMENTS

1. All students can learn.
2. The application of knowledge will lead to the development of functional members of society.
3. The system is committed to continuous improvement.
4. All stakeholders must be committed to high quality standards and expectations.
5. Quality education is the shared responsibility of all stakeholders.
6. Effective collaboration and communication among all stakeholders are essential to the success of our school system.
7. Diversity enriches our school system.
8. A safe and supportive learning environment enhances student achievement.
9. Professional development is an integral part of continuous improvement.

Adopted: 8/19/81

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