



Policy: 2.01

SUBJECT: EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

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Approved by: Detroit Board of Education

1.0 Policy

1.1 VALUES AT THE FOUNDATION OF GOALS

A community that wants to state its goals must first examine its values, the principles on which its daily life is based.

Values grow out of experiences. The values on which goals of the Detroit public schools are based are the values that exalt the worth of the individual. We recognize the importance of home and community, but firmly assert that the schools can make a difference. Yet the schools are a creation of the larger society, and ultimately the schools do what society asks them to do.

To put these ideas into sharper focus, we present here eleven statements of belief.

We believe that all people are born with equal inherent worth. Each person has dignity and deserves respect.

We believe that each individual is unique. It is the diversities which give richness to our society and make us strong.

We believe that all individuals have valuable talents they can contribute. Each must be provided an equal opportunity for an education.

We believe that every American is born with the right to be free. Democratic freedoms are guaranteed to him or her as a birthright. Every student is first a citizen with all the responsibilities of citizenship.

We believe that every person has a responsibility not only for herself or himself but for others as well.

We believe that every person seeks the fulfillment of life within a community where individuals are united by a common bond.

We believe that a successful democracy is based on educated citizens.

We believe that the school is the major institution responsible for learning. But it is not the only one. The family, the church, the community, other social agencies, also plays a valuable role in education. The school can make a difference, but it alone cannot fulfill all of society's needs for education.

We believe education is the development of each person to his or her maximum potential. Equal education requires personalized programs designed for individuals, not masses.

We believe that freedom grows when power is shared. Shared decision-making means giving opportunity to more people.

We believe the prime goal of education is the development of individual minds capable of imaginative, logical and critical thinking which benefits both the person and society.

To fulfill these values the schools must do more than simply teach reading, writing, mathematics, and other basic skills. Needed is broad development in learning how to think and relate to others, how to understand opportunities and how to establish a personal set of values.

Note: The above statement is from "Goals of Education in Detroit," developed by a citywide task force and adopted by the Board.

Attachments to Policy 2.01: None

Legal References: None

Labor Contract References: None