

THE ROLE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND ATTAINMENT OF EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

It shall be the goal of the Schodack Central Schools to fulfill the following mission:

All students will grow to be active, reflective, creative learners. They will engage in rewarding work and practice behaviors that are intelligent in both an academic and a practical sense. Students will develop the attitudes, skills and understandings that will allow them to fulfill their potential and to function successfully in their individual and social roles.

The efforts of all members of the Schodack school community should be directed to helping all of our students to meet the following commencement goals:

1. Each student will master the following skills:
 - a. Think logically and creatively
 - b. Apply reasoning to issues and problems
 - c. Determine what information is needed for particular purposes and be able to acquire, organize and use that information for those purposes
2. Each student will learn skills and gain knowledge through the study of English language and literature and use this in interdisciplinary applications
 - a. Write clearly and effectively
 - b. Read effectively
 - c. Speak clearly and effectively
 - d. Listen critically
3. Each student will learn skills and gain knowledge through the study of foreign language and culture and use this in interdisciplinary applications.
4. Each student will learn skills and gain knowledge through the study of mathematics and use these in interdisciplinary applications
 - a. Perform basic mathematical calculations
 - b. Understand mathematical concepts and be able to apply these in problem-solving
5. Each student will learn skills and gain knowledge through the study of natural sciences and technology and use this in interdisciplinary applications.
6. Each student will learn skills, gain knowledge and develop aesthetic appreciation through the study of the fine arts and use this in interdisciplinary applications
 - a. Develop knowledge and appreciation of the arts
 - b. Develop the ability to participate in at least one major art form
 - c. Develop the ability to make aesthetic judgments and the ability to apply them to works of art

PAGE 2

7. Each student will acquire knowledge about the politics, economy, history and social institutions of this country and other countries
 - a. Understand and be able to apply basic principles of social science
 - b. Understand and appreciate the political, economic and social history of the United States
 - c. Understand the history and culture of other lands and the international interdependence of political, economic, social, cultural and environmental systems
8. Each student will respect and practice basic civic values and acquire the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary to participate in democratic self-government
 - a. Understanding and acceptance of the values of justice, due process, equality and majority rule with respect for minority rights
 - b. Respect for others and property as integral to a self-governing democratic society
 - c. Ability to apply reasoning skills and the process of democratic government to resolve societal problems and disputes
 - d. Respect for people of different race, sex, ability, cultural heritage, national origin, religion and political, economic and social background and their values, beliefs and attitudes
 - e. Appreciation for the ecological consequences of choices in the use of the environment and natural resources
9. Each student will develop general career skills, attitudes and work habits and make a self-assessment of career prospects. Students not directly pursuing post-secondary education will acquire entry-level employment skills.
10. Each student will acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes, which will assist him/her to become a fully functioning human being. These include the development of:
 - a. Self-esteem
 - b. Self-discipline and commitment to excellence
 - c. Personal integrity
 - d. The ability to maintain physical, mental and emotional health
 - e. A commitment to lifetime learning with the capacity for undertaking new studies, synthesizing new knowledge and experience with the known and refining the ability to judge.

The Board's policy statement of philosophy shall guide activity in our schools.

To meet these goals, the Board must:

1. Continually define public values, synthesize these around the expected attributes of our students and communicate these values and attributes widely. The ongoing process and its outcomes are the essence of our responsibilities to our public, the essence of our trusteeship and our governance role.

PAGE 3

2. Clearly state how objectives and outcomes will be measured and the timing of the measurement. Since many objectives may require considerable time to attain, realistic and patient measurement is essential.
3. Use measurement to provide guidance for improvement of our educational effort and process.
4. Recognize that standards and measures must change over time. As we improve in establishing and measuring benchmarks, we need to learn from our experience and refine our efforts through changing measures and standards. We must have a process for doing this. This process must include input of the staff, faculty, administrators, the State Education Department and the students themselves. To the extent that these measures and standards reflect the value-laden expectations of our public, reassessment and change must also incorporate their views.

Approved: 1/15/04 (3rd 1/15/04; 2nd 12/18/03; 1st 11/20/03)