

Downey Unified School District

INSTRUCTION

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

BP 3121

The Board of Education of the Downey Unified School District believes that

1. Education is a lifelong process of learning and living and that our schools are dedicated to the challenge of providing the opportunity for individuals both youth and adult to gain the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to work and live successfully and to assume the responsibilities inherent in a democratic society.
2. Students must be prepared to encounter the daily challenges of the present diverse, multicultural environment and to resolve the constantly changing problems of their future. Not only is education charged with preparing the student to meet life as he/she finds it, but it must inspire him/her positively and morally to affect and improve the world itself.

The Board of Education believes this can best be accomplished by establishing educational programs within which emphasis will be placed upon the following:

1. Provide opportunities for all students to become competent with basic subject matter areas by
 - a. Gaining the necessary information and tools by which they can learn and develop the skills of communication--listening, speaking, reading, writing, and spelling.
 - b. Learning to handle abstract and concrete concepts in mathematics and science, with a realization of how this knowledge may be applied to daily living, and how to apply these tools to drawing conclusions.
 - c. Involvement in the experiences needed to develop skill in the fine and practical arts with emphasis on potential creativeness, inventiveness, and originality.
 - d. Having meaningful experiences that will develop a basic understanding of our nation's and the world's economic structure.
 - e. Developing skills in the use of tools and machines and an understanding of the role of machines and technology in mankind's present and future.

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2. Individuals should be taught by precept and example to respect authority and to understand that they, too, may someday be in positions of authority, and that respect must be earned and given by
 - a. Teaching individuals to be tolerant of their fellowman and to respect the rights, dignity, and worth of the individual and his/her property.
 - b. Developing within each person the insights to interpersonal relationships, which are needed to live harmoniously with others with respect for their rights.
 - c. Encouraging in each student a high standard of honesty and morality.
 - d. Developing in each student an intellectual curiosity and the ability to experience the joy of discovery.
3. Enable all students to develop themselves to the ultimate of their potential in a district, which will be a model for a just and equitable society.
4. Develop an understanding and appreciation of the culture, responsibilities, and heritage of our democratic society, which will be reflected by
 - a. A deep sense of pride in our American heritage.
 - b. A devotion to the country in which we live.
 - c. A sound belief in the advantages and opportunities of a democracy.
 - d. A belief in the destiny of our country as an example of a world leader in a free society.

In this dynamic world these goals of the Downey Unified School District will be reevaluated continually for their worth. Only to the extent that each person achieves these present goals and develops the ability to adjust to the goals and circumstances of tomorrow's world will the home and the agencies of society, including the schools, have achieved their purpose.

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Further, the Board conceives of the District as being a cooperative enterprise in which home, church, school, and other community forces all share in the educational development of individuals. In these, our community schools, the Board of Education urges all parents and citizens to become its partners.

The Board of Education accepts the responsibility delegated by the community at large to commit the human and material resources necessary to implement an educational program designed to achieve the curricular, instructional, and managerial expectancies as stated within a framework defined by the adopted Philosophy of Education.

The Philosophy of the Board of Education may be summarized in this Mission Statement.

The mission of the Downey Unified School District is to provide the highest quality education in a safe, trusting environment; to utilize the resources of the home, school, and community; and to maximize the achievement of all students. The District provides a comprehensive curriculum, based on rigorous academic standards, that is responsive to the strengths and needs of our students. We are committed to developing compassionate, responsible citizens of good character who will be confident, creative, and productive members of an ever-changing global society.