

# POLICY

## BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

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**Responsible Office:** Board of Education

### PHILOSOPHY AND MISSION

#### A. PURPOSE

To establish the philosophy and mission for the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County.

#### B. ISSUE

The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County (Board) believes that all students have a right to educational opportunities of a quality and caliber which will develop their potential as individuals and citizens.

#### C. POSITION

1. Acting on the belief that every individual is valuable and should have the opportunity for a sound education, the public schools have an obligation to serve all students. Programs will be provided for students regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, disability, or cultural, social, economic, racial, religious, or ethnic heritage. Students will master standards that are rigorous, rich, and relevant to the real world, so that they gain the knowledge and skills necessary for success in college and careers.
2. The mission of the Board is to provide leadership, vision, and support to the public school system that ensures an equitable, world class education that creates a culture of lifelong learning by
  - promoting community collaboration,
  - developing responsive policies, and
  - holding itself accountable for the results.
3. The education provided must be efficient, effective, conducted in a humane and disciplined environment, and accomplished at a cost in keeping with the best principles of financial management and responsibility to the taxpayers.
4. In pursuit of this philosophy, the Board is committed to offer each student the following opportunities:

- a. to develop a strong sense of self-respect and a commitment to respect the rights of others;
  - b. to master the intellectual skills of reading, writing, mathematical problem solving, speaking, and listening;
  - c. to acquire the knowledge and habits of mind necessary to understand both cultural and scientific heritage and the contemporary world;
  - d. to develop skills and attitudes that will promote success in college and careers;
  - e. to develop creative abilities and cultural interests;
  - f. to develop the wise and productive use of leisure time;
  - g. to develop those habits of good health and physical activity that are conducive to a productive life; and
  - h. to become stewards of the environment.
5. In pursuit of its philosophy and mission, the Board will foster:
- a. a safe and supportive learning environment where students can experience success and develop a sense of individual worth and dignity;
  - b. cultural enrichment through the arts;
  - c. a wide range of extracurricular activities;
  - d. diversified programs for the development of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills;
  - e. educational opportunities in the community through work study and internship programs;
  - f. motivation and assistance, including instruction, for students to develop effective work and study habits;
  - g. programs for students with special needs;
  - h. programs for English language learners;
  - i. programs to create an awareness of the interrelationship of disciplines;
  - j. effective methods of maintaining community awareness of school programs and curricula

- k. opportunities for students to identify, analyze and propose solutions to problems;
  - l. opportunities and encouragement for creativity, self-expression, and critical thought, and;
  - m. programs of choice, as space allows and at designated locations, including, but not limited to, magnet and signature programs, AVID and Centers of Applied Technology Programs.
6. Additionally, the Board will task the Superintendent with the responsibility to:
- a. establish a consistent grade reporting system throughout the county;
  - b. develop efficient and cost-effective methods of instruction;
  - c. require the streamlining of records, reports, rules and regulations in an effort to increase the portion of time available for instructional purposes;
  - d. conduct systematic reviews of school system policies, regulations and operations to ensure that they are congruent with changing needs and requirements;
  - e. work diligently for the introduction and enactment of legislation that maintains and improves quality education;
  - f. increase public awareness of the functions, needs and aspirations of the school system by utilizing clear and effective means of communication;
  - g. increase public participation in school affairs in order to extend and amplify the strengths present in the school system;
  - h. encourage effective participation of citizen volunteers in the pursuit of program excellence;
  - i. encourage participation of board members and school system personnel in state, regional and national educational organizations;
  - j. provide adequate staff, facilities and materials to meet educational goals;
  - k. promote a respect for the dignity of work and an appreciation for achievement, and;
  - l. promote the attitude that learning is a life-long process.
7. The Board recognizes that the mandate for equality in rights and opportunities

cannot guarantee absolute equality of educational outcome. Personal, social and political factors that are beyond the influence and control of the school system all play roles in the modeling of our students. Nevertheless, within these constraints, the Board is committed to the achievement of excellence and to the furtherance of these goals. The Board recognizes its obligations under state and federal law and is cognizant of its burden of trust and responsibility to the citizens of Anne Arundel County.

8. The Board reaffirms its desire to encourage free and open expression of concern by citizens, staff and students; to conduct its affairs under public scrutiny; to base its decisions on the discovered needs of the entire system rather than narrow self-interest; and to comport itself with dignity and fairness in all its business.

***Policy History:*** Adopted on 09/05/12.

***Note previous policy history:*** Replaces Policy 100, adopted 01/04/78 and revised 10/16/89. Policy 101 is hereby rescinded, having been incorporated herein.