

**PHILOSOPHY**

The Board of Education, recognizing its obligation to the community at large, and individual students in particular, seeks to provide these students the best possible schools, programs, instructional and support personnel available. The effectiveness of our educational process rests upon a sound philosophic base.

The Board believes that:

- Every person is equally important
- Individuals must take responsibility for their actions in order to enjoy the rights and privileges society provides
- The family is the critical component in an individual's development
- All students have unlimited potential
- All students can learn
- High expectations profoundly influence our performance and the performance of others
- Every person is responsible for making the community a better place
- Honesty and integrity are essential to building trusting relationships
- Students learn best in a safe, healthy and respectful environment
- Meaningful accomplishment enhances the motivation essential for continued success

Our heritage is such that social responsibility, societal obligations, strength of character, appreciation of life, the concept of citizenship and respect for our placement in the family of nations must be introduced and reinforced in the schools.

A philosophy, if it is to be functional, incorporates recent knowledge from behavioral and social sciences as well as that knowledge from the past, which has proven to be useful and effective.

Ideally, then, young people must be allowed to work together, discover things for themselves, become involved with making decisions, interact with their environment(s), experience self-direction, self-reliance, the joys of learning, and, in general, become a productive part of the learning process expressed as follows:

**PHILOSOPHY** (continued)

- To provide an educational environment that allows the opportunity for every student to attain maximum growth regardless of ability, socio-economic background, actual or perceived gender or sexual orientation, age, sex, ancestry and/or national origin, ethnic group, medical condition or pregnancy
- To provide an education in the basic skills of sufficient scope, variety and sequence to deal with individual needs and patterns of growth
- To assure that the educational program is designed to cultivate individual intellectual and physical capabilities and one's cultural, moral and social awareness
- To prepare the individual for citizenship in a highly complex and technological society

Toward the above, then, the Board dedicates the total resources of the district to providing efficient, effective educational programs aimed at enabling each student, in accordance with his/her ability, the acquisition of skills, basic and profound, necessary for successful life experiences.

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

*51002 Local development of programs based on stated philosophy and goals*

*51019 Definition of philosophy*

*Management Resources:*

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

*Maximizing School Board Leadership: Vision, 1996*

Policy  
Adopted: September 1, 2005  
Revised: January 18, 2007

**VACAVILLE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Vacaville, California