

Instruction**PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS****MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS FOR STUDENT DEVELOPMENT**

Our democracy is based on the recognition of the dignity and worth of the individual and on one's right to participate in those experiences that will foster the development of individual potential to the fullest extent. To this end, the focus of Miami-Dade County Public Schools is on the learner, the student.

We believe:

The primary responsibility of the public schools is to provide an instructional program in which students will be given the opportunity to master the fundamental skills of reading, writing, listening, speaking, handwriting, spelling, and mathematics. Likewise, other fundamental learnings in the arts, literature, foreign language, natural sciences, social sciences, physical education, career development, and certain applied technology (prevocational and vocational) skills must be provided for all students if they are to develop sound character and become competent citizens. Recognition must be given to and provisions made for the individual capabilities, creative talents, needs, and interests of each student.

The public schools share a joint responsibility with other educational institutions and community agencies and with the parents/guardians for such activities as health, safety, consumer competence, thrift, family living, conservation, the arts, ethical values, vocational training, personal/social adjustments, and the worthy use of leisure time.

The public schools are responsible for reinforcing the culture, traditions, values, ideals, standards, and objectives of our democratic society.

The public schools are responsible for a balanced emphasis on that portion of human development related to attitudes and feelings, especially those dealing with self-worth and the dignity of humanity.

The public schools are responsible for providing educational leadership in the community and shall be held accountable for progress toward attainment of the adopted educational goals.

The following goals represent seven broad major areas of emphasis. They are meant to provide guidance for the school system's instructional personnel and should direct the system's resources toward their attainment.

It is expected that each student, to the extent that individual physical, social, mental, and emotional capacities permit, will achieve consistent progress toward the attainment of the goals.

I. Communication and Learning Skills

Students shall acquire, to the extent of their individual physical, mental, and emotional capacities, a mastery of the basic skills required in obtaining and expressing ideas through the effective use of language, numerals, and other symbols.

- A. Students shall achieve a working knowledge of reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics during the elementary school years, accompanied by developmentally appropriate progress into the broader fields of mathematics, natural sciences, social sciences, language arts, as well as the arts and the humanities.
- B. Students shall develop and use skills in the logical processes of search, analysis, evaluation, and problem solving; in critical thinking; and in the use of symbolism.
- C. Students shall develop competence and motivation for continuing self-evaluation, self-instruction, and adaptation to a changing environment, including the use of technology.
- D. Students shall have the opportunity during the elementary school years to develop and use the skills of speaking and understanding a foreign language in order to communicate effectively in the language for future personal or workforce achievements.

II. Citizenship Education

Students shall acquire and continually improve the knowledge and skills about the theory and practice of constitutional democracy in the United States, which students need to become informed, responsible, and active citizens.

- A. Students shall acquire knowledge of various political systems with emphasis on democratic institutions, the heritage of the United States, the contributions of our diverse cultural backgrounds, and the responsibilities and privileges of citizenship.
- B. Students shall develop the skills required for participation in

the political processes of our country and for influencing decisions made by political organizations.

- C. Students shall develop the competence and desire to become informed and critical participants in the electoral process of this country.
- D. Students shall acquire those attributes necessary for functioning, on a daily basis, as good citizens in their own school and community settings.

Students shall be afforded the opportunity to perform service to the school and community.

III. Career and Occupational Education

Students shall acquire knowledge of careers and the skills necessary to enter the workforce or pursue a post-secondary training program.

- A. Students shall acquire skills through personal/social, educational, and career development, which will enable them to be lifelong learners and succeed in the endeavor of their choice.
- B. Students shall graduate from Miami-Dade County Public Schools with "saleable skills" in order to achieve productive work, full-time employment, or other endeavor of their choice while continuing their education.
- C. Students shall have opportunities to plan their education to become employable, productive members of society.

IV. Mental and Physical Health

Students shall acquire good health habits and an understanding of the conditions necessary for the maintenance of physical, emotional, and social well-being.

- A. Students shall develop an understanding of the requirements of personal hygiene, adequate nutrition, and leisure time activities essential to the maintenance of physical health and knowledge of the dangers to mental and physical health from addiction and other harmful practices.
- B. Students shall develop skills in sports and other forms of recreation, which will provide for life-long health habits and

enjoyment of participation according to their own preferences and abilities.

- C. Students shall develop competence in recognizing and preventing environmental health problems.
- D. Students shall acquire a knowledge of basic psychological and sociological factors affecting human behavior and mental health and shall develop competence for adjusting to changes in personal status and social patterns.

V. Home and Family Relationships

Students shall develop an appreciation of the family as a social institution.

- A. Students shall develop an understanding of their life roles and the roles of others as members of a family, together with knowledge of the requirements for successful participation in family living.
- B. Students shall develop an understanding of the family as a basic unit in society.
- C. Students shall develop an awareness of the diversity of family patterns and the value of the contributions of the individual to family and community living.

VI. Aesthetic and Cultural Appreciations

Students shall develop an understanding and appreciation of human achievement in the natural sciences, the social sciences, the humanities, and the arts.

- A. Students shall acquire knowledge of and appreciation for visual arts, music, literary forms, theater, dance, film, and entertainment, and their place in the cultural heritage.
- B. Students shall acquire knowledge of the natural, physical, and social sciences, and their relationships to human and social development.
- C. Students shall develop skills for creative use of leisure time and be encouraged to become active in one or more areas of creative endeavor.

- D. Students shall develop skills to critically evaluate cultural offerings and opportunities.

VII. Human Relations

Students shall develop a concern for moral, ethical, and spiritual values and for the application of such values to life situations.

- A. Students shall acquire the skills necessary to attain the greatest possible understanding and appreciation of themselves as well as of persons belonging to social, religious, cultural, and ethnic groups different from their own, and of the worthiness of all persons as members of society.
- B. Students shall develop those skills and attitudes necessary for positive interpersonal and group relationships and interactions and shall recognize the importance of and need for ethical and moral standards of behavior.
- C. Students shall develop group behaviors and responsibility for self that promote a sense of worth of the individual while contributing to the collective benefit of all involved.

Specific Authority: 230.22(2); 230.23(20) F.S.

Law Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: 230.22(1),(3), and (5); 230.23(3) F.S.

History: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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