

# POLICY

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## 2110 PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION/DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

### General Statement

Free public education for all children is a cornerstone of a democratic society that values the worth and dignity of each individual. The primary goal of this Board of Education shall be to offer each child in this district the educational opportunity that will enable him/her to function politically, economically, and socially in that democratic society.

The Board, as the agent responsible for the education of the children of the district, will provide a planned program of learning that incorporates into its curriculum the lessons and experiences, within and without the classroom, needed to realize the educational goals of this district. The Board appreciates the need for constant improvement of the instructional program and will strive unremittingly to provide an educational system that assists each pupil in becoming a self-respecting individual who can function effectively and satisfyingly.

It is the expectation of this school district that all pupils achieve the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards at all grade levels.

The Board will seek out and work cooperatively with the available resources of home and community including business and industry, in the improvement of the educational program.

The Board will endeavor to employ a high caliber, well-prepared staff of adequate size and wide-ranging abilities. Moreover, the Board will provide pupils and staff, as needs dictate and means permit, with adequate educational supplies, equipment, and facilities.

The purpose of education in the schools of this district is to facilitate the development of each child to his/her greatest potential. The school staff shall recognize individual differences among pupils and encourage their achievement and progress, not only in basic skills but in the ability to think independently and critically. The school staff shall help pupils to understand our democratic society; to believe in it and to act fairly in their relationships with others; to develop in themselves attitudes of respect and



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helpfulness toward others; to want, and to be able to perform well, some portion of the work of the world; to acquire knowledge and skills necessary to do this with satisfaction to themselves and society; to understand and use effective methods in framing the questions and tackling the problems that they encounter in their lives to the end that they may function politically, economically, and socially in a democratic society.

## 2012-2017 Strategic Plan

### Values

We Value:

- challenges that foster curiosity, growth and confidence.
- integrity in person, action, and process.
- safe, inspirational communities.
- respectful, supportive resourceful and independent citizens.
- persistent, collaborative, open communicators.

### Mission

The mission of Nutley Public Schools is to challenge, inspire, and empower students to become creative, confident, passionate, self-directed citizens who actively and purposefully contribute in our global society.

### Vision

The Nutley Public School system is a sustainable, integrated, efficient, and innovative school district that serves as the unifying and driving force in the community's effort to affect measurable growth as students develop into confident, responsible, productive, self-directed citizens who pursue excellence through personal, research-based, rigorous learning toward district established standards that fosters an on-going pursuit of excellence.

### Strategies and Delimiters

#### Strategies

Behaviors that we want to ensure are part of our culture.

We will:

- Establish open and continuous communication to engage all stakeholders in the process of achieving our objectives.
- Inspire and energize students, staff and all other members of our community to embrace, commit to, and collectively work towards achieving each of our strategic objectives.
- Identify and utilize active partnerships with community organizations to support the achievement of our objectives.



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- Utilize only the existing resources that support student achievement and acquire new resources necessary to satisfy our objectives.

## Delimiters

Behaviors we want to ensure are not part of our culture.

We will not:

- Continue to utilize resources that do not support student achievement.
- Implement new programs or services without the necessary professional development and support.
- Allow ineffective past practice to interfere with the consideration of new ideas.
- Pursue changes in policy or practice without defining what the change is, why it is necessary, who is responsible for its implementation and when it will be accomplished.

## Goals

### Character

By June 2017, students in Nutley Public Schools will assume responsibility for the integrity of the Nutley student population, demonstrating character by their actions in school and the community and through their own participation and monitoring of and presentation on codes of honor.

### Communication

By June 2017, the district will have in place a detailed, efficient, and technology-based system of communication that allows for multiple avenues of information and the involvement of all stakeholders in ensuring and measuring student success.

### Community

By September 2017, all students will participate in and present the learning derived from curriculum-based, service-oriented community projects that instill confidence, responsibility, and produce measureable contributions to the community.

### Competency

By June 2017, students at all grade levels will demonstrate mastery of core competencies and content through performance on common assessments, development of personal learning experiences, and presentations of their personal growth and learning to a variety of suitable audiences.

### Configuration

By September 2017, the school district will investigate and evaluate best practices by instructional grade span and transform the district's structure as necessary based on these findings and the district's physical, financial, and instructional realities.



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## Curriculum

By June 2017, the district will develop and implement a thorough, data-based process for analyzing curriculum, instruction, assessment, student performance, professional development, and resources in all curricular areas ensuring that professional practice is always current, relevant, and aligned to the most updated standards. Each curricular area will be reviewed on an, at most, five-year timeline. The results of each process will be presented publicly.

Adopted: 03 May 2004

Revised: 14 April 2008

Revised: 16 July 2012

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Reviewed: 23 Feb 2015

