



STATEMENT OF BELIEFS IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

Public School is the only societal institution where children from diverse backgrounds gather for a common purpose – to become educated. The challenge for educators is to define what we believe about education in a manner that encompasses the values of a democratic society, respects the inherent uniqueness of the individual student and at the same time provides equity of opportunity and ensures achievement for all.

With this frame of reference and with the belief that all children can learn, the members of the Manitoba Association of School Superintendents have developed a statement of beliefs about education.

We believe the purposes of public education to be:

1. To assist children to view themselves as capable of contributing to the public good and preparing them to do so.
2. To encourage in children a balance of intellectual and social development, social consciousness, and preparation for life.
3. To educate each child in a manner consistent with justice, fairness and equity.
4. To foster in each child active participation in public service and to promote the development of each child as a lifelong contributing member of our democratic society.
5. To empower each child with the knowledge and skills to live a positive fulfilling life in a manner consistent with acceptance of others and respect for democratic values in a diverse society.
6. To develop the child's self perception as a lifelong learner.
7. To assist children to develop an optimistic view of the future and a confident awareness of their potential to be an active participant in that future.

To achieve these purposes, we must:

1. Provide safe, caring and welcoming learning environments for all children.
2. Engage all students in learning to their individual capacities.
3. Respect and nurture the co-responsibility with parents/guardians for the education of their children.
4. Listen to and build relationships with the community.
5. Engage with the community to build awareness and understanding of the purposes and value of public education and engage the community in opportunities to develop and support education for the public good.
6. Be responsible and accountable to the community through clarity of vision, transparency of operation, and the sharing of educational outcomes.
7. Continue to manage and support education through publicly elected school boards.
8. Strive to ensure that sufficient funding is provided to achieve the purposes of education.
9. Be responsive to the changing needs of society.
10. Practise democracy in our school system.