

In pursuit of its philosophy and mission, the Board holds the following beliefs:

**We believe that a successful student . . .**

- a. Understands that life-long learning is essential for productive and responsible participation in a diverse and changing world.
- b. Can identify and master knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will benefit him/her throughout life.
- c. Is motivated and takes responsibility for his/her learning and personal conduct.
- d. Enrolls in a rigorous academic program of study designed to develop individual talent.
- e. Must have equal access to a public education that promotes optimal individual growth.
- f. Utilizes technology to explore a world of ideas and information.

**We believe that in an effective classroom, the teacher . . .**

- a. Takes responsibility for the motivation and success of every student he/she teaches.
- b. Recognizes that every student is unique and has special abilities and interests that must be acknowledged and developed.
- c. Has a responsibility to engage every student in learning, problem solving, and decision-making.
- d. Reflects on his/her teaching practice and provides opportunities for success by using a variety of teaching techniques that meet multiple learning styles.
- e. Has achieved mastery of content knowledge and teaching skills, and continues to seek opportunities for professional growth.
- f. Is responsible for modeling good work ethic, citizenship, personal values, and social skills.

**We believe that an effective school . . .**

- a. Endorses a clear and focused mission which eliminates fragmentation of effort and promotes student achievement.
- b. Provides a safe and orderly environment conducive to teaching and learning and to the development of character and ethical citizenship.
- c. Provides a climate of high expectations that fosters learning and provides quality educational experiences for all students.
- d. Engages in shared instructional leadership that is collaborative and promotes school improvement efforts.
- e. Provides opportunities to learn and time on task through interdisciplinary instruction, performance based assessment, and real world application of knowledge and skills.
- f. Frequently monitors student progress to ensure accountability.
- g. Encourages and develops family, school and community partnerships.
- h. Prepares all students to be a University of Maryland System completer, a career/technology education completer, or both.

**We believe that an outstanding school system . . .**

- a. Respects the dignity and worth of every individual.
- b. Provides programs and services based on the needs, characteristics, interests, and capabilities of each student.
- c. Provides an effective principal in every school and an effective teacher in every classroom.
- d. Offers a challenging, ethnically diverse, multi-cultural curriculum.
- e. Insists on a results-oriented, data-driven focus which is based on continuous growth and evaluation.
- f. Defines expectations and holds all personnel accountable for results.
- g. Ensures that every employee models ethical behavior, exhibits a strong work ethic, and achieves high performance standards.
- h. Engages in fiscal responsibility to the taxpayer.
- i. Takes responsibility for recruiting, developing, and retaining qualified, caring, motivated, and competent employees.
- j. Provides equal opportunity and encouragement for every student.
- k. Identifies needs and manages resources effectively and efficiently.
- l. Values diversity.
- m. Provides a competitive salary and benefits package to employees.
- n. Provides effective leadership and supervision at the central office level

**We believe that a supportive community . . .**

- a. Recognizes that public education is the foundation of a democratic society.
- b. Values education and cherishes children.
- c. Provides adequate resources and demands excellence.
- d. Recognizes that all citizens have a stake in public education.
- e. Is compelled to make an investment in the future of our youth.
- f. Creates and maintains a stable supportive environment for education.
- g. Fosters regular and open communication among the home, school, and community.
- h. Respects and appreciates students and school employees.
- i. Actively supports our commitment to challenge all students to achieve their potential.
- j. Is responsible for establishing values and expectations that support the learning process.
- k. Works together to create a better future.