PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

0118
Policy No.

BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY

BASIC COMMITMENTS

Mission, Vision and Core Values

Preamble

The Prince George's County Board of Education firmly believes that the academic achievement of ALL students is paramount and must improve. Inequities have increasingly developed over decades, contributing to the current achievement gaps that exist among certain groups of children. These achievement gaps can and will be eradicated. The Board of Education recognizes that such eradication can only occur through reform. Reform involves (1) the reprogramming of thoughts about ALL children’s ability to reach their full academic potential, without regard for their race or ethnicity, gender, religion, economic status, culture, language, or special needs, and (2) the redistribution of resources. Recognizing the enormous challenge and the bold steps required to implement accountable reform measures in the Prince George's County Public School System, the Board of Education publishes and affirms its Core Beliefs and Commitments. The Prince George's County Board of Education vows to close achievement gaps and raise achievement for all students in Prince George’s County by ensuring “equitable access” to a high quality education that guarantees that every child graduating from the Prince George's County Public School System is college ready and work ready.

We believe college ready and work ready are one and the same. Equitable access is a fundamental right to every child regardless of race or ethnicity, gender, economic status, culture, language, special needs or faith.

Because significant tax-payer dollars are earmarked for the Prince George's County Public Schools System, the Board of Education commits to distributing these resources equitably in an effective and efficient manner in the best interest of children.

We believe that equity is achieved by allocating more resources to students with greatest need without disadvantaging others.
Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define the guiding principles by which all activities of the Board of Education will be undertaken.

Mission
To Provide a Great Education that Empowers All Students and Contributes to Thriving Communities.

Vision
PGCPS will be a GREAT school system recognized for providing education services which ensure that every student in our diverse school district graduates ready for college and careers in a global society.

Core Values
1. Students are our priority, and all students can achieve at high academic levels;
2. Families, students, and educators share the responsibility for student success;
3. High expectations inspire high performance;
4. All staff share the responsibility for a safe and supportive school environment contributing to excellence in education;
5. The support of everyone in our community is essential to the success of our schools and students, and this success enriches our community; and
6. Continuous improvement in teaching, leadership, and accountability is the key to our destiny.

Core Beliefs and Commitments
1. We believe that educating children is our sole mission and that all children can learn and achieve at high levels.
   a. We commit to closing achievement gaps and raising achievement for all students.
   b. We commit to support student learning and achievement.
   c. We commit to holding the system accountable for student achievement based on local, state and federal requirements. In addition, Prince George's County Public Schools commit to measuring student achievement over time using growth modeling.
   d. We commit to holding the system accountable for all students achieving grade level mastery or above.
2. We believe parents, guardians and caregivers play a vital role in the education of their children. Parents, guardians, and caregivers must send their children to school well prepared and ready to learn. We believe that parents, guardians, and caregivers must foster in their children a love for learning by encouraging reading, and by promoting discipline.

   a. We commit to increasing family engagement in the education process through communication and outreach.

   b. Nevertheless we commit to educating all children regardless of family support or involvement.

3. We believe that closing the achievement gaps and raising achievement for all students are the result of what takes place in classrooms.

   a. We commit to focusing resources in the classroom.

   b. We commit that all students educated in the Prince George's County Public Schools will be college and work ready. We believe college ready and work ready are one and the same.

4. We believe that learning and working environments that are safe and supportive are vital for achieving a goal of outstanding academic achievement for all students.

   a. We commit to all employees being highly qualified, highly skilled and effective.

   b. We commit to supporting school environments that are safe, inviting, welcoming, technologically equipped, culturally sensitive, and healthy.

5. The support of everyone in our community is essential to the success of our schools and students, and this success enriches our community; and

   a. We commit to building relationships with all members of the community to promote and inspire support for and confidence in the quality education of all public school students of Prince George's County.

   b. We commit to encouraging philanthropic support from businesses and nonprofit organizations, to include the faith-based community, for the development of educational options for all students.

6. Continuous improvement in teaching, leadership, and accountability is the key to our destiny.

   a. We commit to develop processes that provide for systemic oversight and evaluation of our schools, offices and to ensure transparency, efficiency and accountability within our school system.
b. We commit to increase successful program outcomes through improved resource allocation, project focus, and project/portfolio management.

Policy Adopted
4/10/08

Policy Amended
3/21/17