

## EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

The Columbia Schools recognize and believe that each student is an individual, possessing different talents, skills, hopes, and fears. It is our goal to provide a stimulating environment conducive to learning and to give encouragement to all individuals to develop the skills necessary to function successfully in society. Education should help an individual develop a positive self-image and help each learner discover himself/herself as a person. It is clearly recognized that the primary missions of the Columbia Local School District is to achieve academic excellence. In order to successfully accomplish this goal, the team concept of shared responsibility must take place. The team should include the Board of Education, administrators, teachers, service personnel, students, family and community agencies.

The practical application of this philosophy would encompass a wide range of areas of emphasis. It is important to provide an environment of intellectual achievement and emotional and physical health that will challenge all students to perform to the level of their capabilities. It is equally important to provide an atmosphere where positive values and democratic processes necessary to function in a free and organized society can be appreciated and integrated into the students' life and concepts. Hopefully, this would help students in choosing healthy life styles and developing coping skills and problem-solving techniques. To develop good communication skills is equally important, as this would enable the student to contribute his/her knowledge to society. We need to foster citizenship through an adopted code of conduct that encourages responsibility, self-discipline, and respect. We must strive to develop the basic academic skills of reading, writing, and mathematics necessary for individual success. Along the same lines, it is important that we continue to upgrade the curriculum, with emphasis on further developing and evaluating our competency-based education program and intervention techniques. We must provide our students the opportunity to further develop academic skills and knowledge necessary for continuous learning, self-improvement, and decision-making in a rapidly changing technological society.

To accomplish all of the above, we must realize that learners will function more effectively if they are given the opportunity to be involved in their own learning process and in the establishing of goals and objectives for their lives. When there is a free and open exchange of ideas, there exists a positive learning environment.

Exemption from any of the curriculum requirements will be on an individual basis. Specifically, exemption of handicapped students from the Ohio Proficiency and competency-based education requirements will be determined during an Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting. It will be noted in written form on each student's IEP the extent of participation or any modification of any testing procedure.

Adopted: January 25, 1977  
Revised: June 20, 1990  
Revised: April 17, 1996

CROSS REFS.: AE, School District Goals and Objectives  
IA, Instructional Goals

Columbia Schools, Columbia Station, Ohio