

CHRISTINA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

FOUNDATIONS AND BASIC COMMITMENTS

STATEMENT ON BOARD OF EDUCATION MISSION STATEMENT AND BELIEFS

- A. **PURPOSE:** To affirm and direct Board of Education’s Mission Statement and Beliefs
- B. **ISSUE:** The Board believes that the programs, activities and resources of the District should be directed toward realizing the Board of Education’s Mission Statement and Beliefs.
- C. **STATEMENT:** Our mission is to educate each student to succeed through:
- EXPECTATIONS OF EXCELLENCE;
 - SAFE WORKING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS;
 - RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY; AND
 - CARING AND KNOWLEDGEABLE STAFF MEMBERS

Beliefs of the Christina Board of Education:

- All children can and all children must learn and achieve at high levels when they are entrusted to our educators. Anything short of striving to attain this is a breach of our professional and moral responsibility;
- We must aspire to a trajectory of high expectations to which we hold ourselves, all our employees, all our parents, and all our students;
- Safe and orderly learning environments are critical to support student achievement;
- Our teachers must demonstrate the ability and the desire to educate each child at a high level, but our school system has an obligation to quantify and specify the nature of work our teachers are to do. Without that clarity, we will fail.
- Everyone must be held accountable through regular and multiple uses of student performance data;
- We have a responsibility to enable children to develop positive and healthy behaviors and attitudes around issues of racial, socioeconomic, ethnic, religious, familial, gender, and other diversity;
- Equity and excellence in tandem are paramount. We also believe that equity without excellence is nothing more than tokenism and excellence without equity is nothing more than privilege;
- High performing students need to be challenged just as much as all other children;

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- Every Christina School District employee and volunteer is an educator. Our educators have a huge capacity to change lives for the better—and our young people will rise to the expectations we place on them;
- Public education will not survive without public support and that our goal for the Christina School District to go from *good to great* will require commitment to hard work, focus, intensity, and investment;
- Parents/Guardians play an important and influential role in the educational success of a child. We must frequently invite and strongly encourage their valuable contributions;
- The Board of Education, Christina School District Educators, and Parents/Guardians must work as a team. When we all work together, we will better enable students to achieve more and at a faster pace.

D. **REVIEW AND REPORTING:** The Superintendent or his/her designee will report each year to the Board on the status of this statement.

E. **HISTORY:** Adopted November 18, 2003, Reaffirmed August 9, 2005.

F. **REFERENCES:**

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STATEMENT ON BOARD OF EDUCATION THEORY OF ACTION

- A. **PURPOSE:** To affirm and direct Board of Education's Theory of Action
- B. **ISSUE:** The Board believes that the programs, activities and resources of the District should be directly related to the Board of Education's Theory of Action.
- C. **STATEMENT:** The CSD Board of Education's theory of action for achieving academic excellence is "Excellence by Design: Curriculum, Standards and Data." A theory of action is a coherent set of strategies that shall ensure academic rigor and maximize student learning at all levels by shaping management goals, policies, strategic planning and budgets. It springs from our core beliefs, and derives from proven theories of action in other high-performing districts.

CSD's theory of action "Excellence by Design: Curriculum, Standards and Data," is based on the premise that CSD's core purpose and responsibility is student achievement.

The elements of this theory of action are:

- CSD shall hold itself accountable at all levels of the organization for student achievement and elimination of student achievement gaps. Accountability means setting ambitious learning goals, tracking student achievement, and aligning district resources to best fulfill our public trust: educate our children.
 - Accountability requires empowerment. CSD shall maximize operational efficiency by maintaining decision-making for school operations at individual schools.
 - CSD shall establish district-wide curricula for every course and grade level, aligned with Delaware content standards, appropriately sequenced and vertically aligned K-12. Teacher collaboration shall guide development and use of lesson plans, pacing guides, teaching materials and assessments. These shall be made available to all teachers in the district.
 - CSD shall implement and maintain detailed quantitative measurements of overall student achievement and learning gains, obtained from formative (diagnostic) and summative (end-of-term) assessments, including the DSTP, SAT and AP tests. These data shall be used to evaluate and improve curriculum and instruction.
 - CSD shall cultivate a workforce of high-performing instructional leaders and teachers. HR policies and practices shall support all employees in achieving CSD's student performance goals. CSD shall develop a comprehensive, research-proven professional development system for all staff to support optimal delivery of district curriculum and student learning.
 - CSD shall use differentiated resource allocations to insure successful achievement for all students.
- D. **REVIEW AND REPORTING:** The Superintendent or his/her designee will report each year to the Board on the status of this statement.
- E. **HISTORY:** Adopted October 11, 2005
- F. **REFERENCES:**

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STATEMENT ON LEGAL STATUS AND GENERAL POWERS

- A. **PURPOSE:** To establish legal status and general powers of the Christina School District as conferred by the Delaware State Constitution and General Assembly.
- B. **ISSUE:** The General Assembly has conferred on the Christina Board of Education the authority to administer, supervise and determine policy, rules and regulations for the free, public schools of the Christina School District. Included among these is the power to sue and the capacity to be sued under the name of the Christina School District. (14 Del. C. § 1043)
- C. **STATEMENT:**
1. The General Assembly has placed the duty for the general administration and supervision of the public school system on the State Department of Education. (14 Del. C. § 121)
 2. The Christina School District was created by the General Assembly as a reorganized school district in July 1, 1981.
 3. The General Assembly requires the Christina School District to have a Board of Education and to hire a Superintendent to be its Chief School Officer and Executive Secretary. (14 Del. C. §§ 1043, 1091)
 4. The Board of Education shall have the power to administer, supervise and determine policy, rules and regulations for the free, public schools of the Christina School District pursuant to the laws of the State of Delaware and the regulations of the Department of Education.
- D. **REVIEW AND REPORTING:** The Superintendent or his/her designee will report each year to the Board on the status of this statement.
- E. **HISTORY:**
- F. **REFERENCES:** 14 Del. C. § 121, 1043, and 1091.