

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY AND MISSION

RSU2's mission is to cultivate hope in all learners. We believe that hope, engagement, and well-being are as important as content knowledge to every child's development. We encourage our staff and students to see learning as a continuous, lifelong process. Our schools teach learners of all ages the knowledge, skills, and dispositions they need to become responsible, informed citizens ready and able to succeed in whatever endeavors they choose after graduation.

We believe that all children deserve equal but not identical opportunities to allow them to achieve academically, develop self-confidence and self-esteem, and exhibit a genuine respect for others. We are committed to a proficiency-based model of education that places learners at the center of all our educational efforts.

In our schools, learners drive the learning process. We recognize that all learners are individuals with their own unique strengths, interests, and goals, and we adapt our teaching to meet their unique learning needs. Educators and students work together to set goals, and teachers in different content areas share the responsibility of helping students meet their learning targets. We are committed to providing a variety of learning pathways and promoting interdisciplinary learning experiences to help learners move on their own path at an appropriate and adaptable pace.

RSU2's professional staff is responsible for providing education to all children. In fulfilling this responsibility, the staff will work to ensure the following:

- A. Staff members will see children as full human beings with physical, psychological, social, emotional, artistic, and academic needs.
- B. Staff members will apply their knowledge of child development and instructional pedagogy to develop appropriate instructional goals, methods, and assessments to respond effectively to the needs of each individual student.
- C. Staff members will set goals and engage in ongoing self-evaluation to improve themselves and provide the best instruction possible for all students.
- D. All learners will master the standards set forth in accordance with the Maine Learning Results.

The Board fully accepts the responsibility of formulating policies and securing adequate funding for our schools. We promote sound, research-based educational practices and professional development. We consider the welfare of students to be the single most important factor in making decisions.

We also believe that the proper and adequate support of public schools is a civic responsibility shared by all citizens. Community support and a strong rapport between schools and the community are essential to our success, so we encourage all community members, local officials, businesses, civic organizations, and parents and caregivers to be involved in our schools.

Legal reference: 20-A MRSA, § 1001 (1-A); § 4511(3)(A)

Original policy adopted 8/12/09

First Reading of Revision: 2/4/21; Second Reading and Adoption: 3/4/21