

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY/MISSION

The RSU 26 board considers itself and its employees primarily as advocates for the children educated in our district. The board recognizes that the thorough and efficient education of its children is its primary statutory-based responsibility. To this end, the Board considers proper and adequate support of schools to be a civic responsibility shared by all citizens.

We consider our central educational mission being to cultivate a community of responsible, respectful and passionate learners. Our priorities to ensure this educational mission are that:

- Our graduating students are lifelong learners, prepared for a constantly changing world.
- We seek to address and develop the whole student including intellectual, physical, social, emotional and aesthetic dimensions
- Learning in our system is engaging and personalized to meet the needs, strengths and interests of each individual learner and to cultivate passion and purpose.
- Our curriculum is comprehensive and rigorous, setting expectations for well-rounded students equipped to be successful in their personalized learning pathways and in their world
- Our instruction is student-centered and personalized for each of our learners, allowing each student to learn at the pace and in the modalities best for them
- Our assessment system continuously documents learner progress toward proficiency and is used by the board and administrators to identify areas of the system needing improvement
- All staff members consistently put kids first, helping every student learn for success

To facilitate this mission and these priorities, the RSU 26 board and superintendent will work together to

- Continually develop an inspiring common vision for the future of our learning community and work together to achieve it.
- Ensure that technology is consistently used to increase and enhance student learning.
- Ensure that our facilities are designed & maintained to support our students' learning
- Provide our staff the resources and professional development needed to support student learning

The RSU 26 Board recognizes the important role of professional staff as the body that is legally charged with the responsibility of providing education to all children in our schools.

Jointly the superintendent, principals and staff are charged to ensure that all children will learn and demonstrate achievement of proficiency in the content areas of language arts, mathematics, science, history, and technology consistent with Maine's system of Learning Results and its Guiding Principles.

The RSU 26 board believes that in order to achieve our goals and to implement this philosophy, all schools must secure the involvement of the community, students, staff, parents and citizens. Educational responsibility must and will be shared with important community institutions. We strongly believe that our school system's success depends on good rapport and cooperation with our community and its

institutions. The board will ensure that stakeholder inclusive, consultative processes are used wherever possible in decision making.

The Board fully accepts the responsibility of formulating policies and acquiring adequate funding to support the education process. The Board will always consider the welfare of students as the single most important factor in making decisions relative to educational policy.

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

Revised: 6/6/17