

<i>Policy Manual</i>	<p>Policy 1 TITLE: GPPSD Mission and Guiding Principles APPROVED: May 26, 2009 AMENDED/REVIEWED: January 29, 2013 April 2014, September 13, 2016, June 13, 2017, March 12, 2019</p>
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<p>LEGAL REFERENCE: School Act 2000; Sec 39, 45, 47, 78</p>	

Policy Background

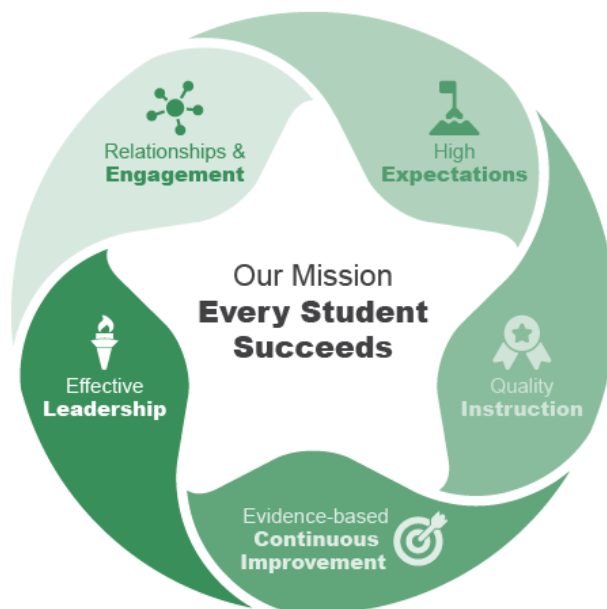
The Board of Trustees of the Grande Prairie Public School District (the Board), in its role as governor and advocate for public education in our community, has developed the District’s vision, mission and guiding principles to ensure students achieve their fullest potential. The content of this policy reflects who we are and why we do what we do as a School District and illustrates our beliefs and values about teaching and learning. The Universal Guiding Principles and Operating Principles in this policy are meant to guide the decisions and actions of every person in our District. This policy represents the high expectations we have for ourselves to ensure every student succeeds. With students at the core of our work, it is the inter-relationship of our expectations with quality instruction, strong relationships, effective leadership and a focus on continuous improvement that will see us attain our vision.

Mission Statement

The Grande Prairie Public School District is a learning community in which every student succeeds.

Vision Statement

To be recognized as the leading provider of high-quality public education in the Province of Alberta.



Key Elements of the Culture of the Grande Prairie Public School District

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Universal Guiding Principles

For everything we decide and do, we will hold ourselves accountable and we will ask:

- Is it good for students?
- Will it build trust and good relationships?
- Will it help us improve?
- Is it a responsible thing to do?
- Are we being open, honest and ethical?

Operating Guiding Principles

- Students
 - Unique learning needs of each student will be accommodated;
 - An inclusive culture in schools will be fostered;
 - Student emotional and physical health and safety will be ensured;
 - The principles of natural justice and due process in student matters will be followed;
 - Schools and staff will establish and communicate high expectations for students when it comes to behavior, attendance, achievement, citizenship and extracurriculars;
 - Students can expect at least one adult will be an encouraging role model who is understanding of their needs; and
 - Schools and staff will work with parents to establish high expectations and to communicate the important role parents play in student success.
- Continuous Improvement and Innovation
 - We value building assurance through transparency and accountability through sharing readily available data and resources;
 - Continuous improvement will be a focus at all levels of our District;
 - Continuous improvement requires a culture focused on inquiry and ongoing Professional Learning;
 - The District, schools, administrators and teachers will use evidence to establish specific short- and long-term goals to improve achievement;
 - Staff will regularly monitor and review evidence gathered during their practice to assess the success of their improvement goals;
 - Staff will be encouraged to adopt new strategies to support student learning, monitor their progress in a timely fashion, and adapt their strategy if unsuccessful; and
 - We will regularly share, celebrate and recognize the success achieved by both our students and staff.

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- Programs
 - A diversity (breadth and depth) of learning opportunities will be provided;
 - Partnerships will be developed;
 - Relevant provincial, national and international opportunities will be explored;
 - The needs of our students and community shall be reflected in a responsive manner;
 - Programs will be resourced in a sustainable manner;
 - Great instruction is fundamental to student success. Instruction will reflect sound instructional strategies, a cooperative learning environment and will be guided by current educational research;
 - Integration of Information Technology across the curriculum shall enhance student learning and prepare students for 21st century learning; and
 - Activities, programs and procedures will be regularly reviewed and will be modified or discontinued as appropriate.

- Human Resources
 - All staff are equally valued in our District and each individual contributes to our success;
 - Mental and physical well-being of staff will be promoted;
 - We will seek the best candidate who is the most qualified for all positions;
 - Provincial leadership and instructional standards of practice identify the competencies expected of our leaders and teachers;
 - Performance evaluation measures will be implemented;
 - The principles of natural justice and due process will be followed;
 - Human resource allocation will be transparent;
 - Human resource allocation will be sustainable; and
 - We will invest in building our human capacities.

- Financial Management
 - The Board will engage in short-term and long-range budgeting;
 - Budgets shall be developed in consultation with the Board and School Administration;
 - Additional revenue streams will be sought consistent with the education mandate;
 - Financial reserves will be developed in a strategic manner;

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- All financial reporting and resource allocations will be comprehensive and transparent; and
- Allocation of resources will be sustainable.

- Facilities
 - Facilities shall be made available for community use;
 - Facilities shall be maintained at the highest standard possible;
 - Facilities will be environmentally sustainable;
 - Facilities shall be safe and healthy;
 - Long-term facility planning will occur; and
 - Partnerships with other community groups, organizations or Boards to create program and cost saving opportunities will be encouraged.

- Transportation
 - Where efficient and appropriate, transportation services should be shared with other school jurisdictions, or public service providers;
 - Wherever possible, the system-wide coordination of the transportation will be ensured; and
 - Transportation services will be provided in a safe and punctual manner.

- Communication and Engagement
 - We will value building community by enhancing relationships with and between students, parents, administration and the public to advance student success;
 - The Board will support and encourage collaborative engagement with stakeholders when relevant;
 - Communication will be done to inform or promote the District and celebrate our value and values; and
 - We will pursue the most effective and efficient means of communication both internally and externally with all stakeholders.