

# Greenwich Public Schools

## Mission, Vision, Values and Beliefs

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**Policy:** The District shall provide for a comprehensive educational program for all students. All District operations and resources will be directed toward fulfilling the Mission, Vision, Values, and Beliefs in word, action, policy, and decision-making.

**Mission:** It is the Mission of the Greenwich Public Schools

- to educate all students to the highest levels of academic achievement;
- to enable them to reach and expand their potential; and
- to prepare them to become productive, responsible, ethical, creative and compassionate members of society.

**Vision:**

### Vision of the Graduate

The Greenwich Public Schools are committed to preparing students to function effectively in an interdependent global community. Therefore, in addition to acquiring a core body of knowledge\*, all students will develop their individual capacities to:

- o Pose and pursue substantive questions
- o Critically interpret, evaluate, and synthesize information
- o Explore, define, and solve complex problems
- o Communicate effectively for a given purpose
- o Advocate for ideas, causes, and actions
- o Generate innovative, creative ideas and products
- o Collaborate with others to produce a unified work and/or heightened understanding
- o Contribute to community through dialogue, service, and/or leadership
- o Conduct themselves in an ethical and responsible manner
- o Recognize and respect other cultural contexts and points of view
- o Pursue their unique interests, passions and curiosities

- o Respond to failures and successes with reflection and resilience
- o Be responsible for their own mental and physical health

\*The core body of knowledge is established in local curricular documents which reflect national and state standards as well as workplace expectations.

**Core Values:**

“As educators, we value...

**A Comprehensive education:** we provide our students with a challenging, well-rounded education that includes the arts, humanities, mathematics, the sciences, technology, and health, and that fosters students’ social and emotional well-being.

**High expectations:** we hold ourselves and our students to high standards of performance and behavior.

**Integrity:** we are honest, ethical, and respectful of others, and we foster those traits in our students.

**Accountability:** we establish clear goals, measure progress, and take responsibility for results, and we teach our students to become responsible, self-motivated learners.

**Collaboration:** we partner with parents and our diverse community to support our students’ learning, and we teach our students to work cooperatively with others to accomplish goals.

**Diversity:** we appreciate, respect, and learn from diverse viewpoints, and we teach our students to do the same.

**Life-long learning:** we challenge ourselves to continue our own professional and personal development, and we strive to instill a love of learning in our students.

**The Beliefs of the Greenwich Public Schools are:**

1. All children can learn and deserve an education appropriate to their abilities.
2. Schools must set high expectations for every student and staff member.
3. Student achievement must be meaningful and measurable.
  
4. Students become independent learners by taking initiative, setting challenging goals for themselves and assessing their progress.
5. Curriculum and instruction should be engaging, meaningful, and challenging in all disciplines, including academic subjects and the arts.
6. Learning requires a safe and disciplined environment.
7. Education should encourage risk-taking, hard work and perseverance.
8. Learning and achievement build self-esteem.
9. Effective teachers are essential because the fundamental relationship in education is between teacher and student.

10. Students require the wisdom and guidance of caring adults to thrive and succeed.
11. Students, educators, and families share responsibility for learning.
12. Moral integrity, reliability and respect for others should be fostered and encouraged in schools as well as in homes.
13. An informed community can provide direction, constructive criticism and essential support to the school system.
14. Excellent schools require adequate funding and sound management focused on student learning in all disciplines, including academic subjects and the arts.
15. Physical fitness contributes to optimal student learning.

**Rationale:** The Greenwich Board of Education is ultimately responsible to the citizens of Greenwich for delivering an excellent education to all students at a reasonable cost to the taxpayer.

**Legal References:** Connecticut General Statutes

- 10-15 Towns to maintain schools
- 10-15C Discrimination in public schools prohibited.  
School attendance by five-year olds
- 10-184 Duties of parents
- 10-186 Duties of local and regional Boards of Education
- 10-220
- 10-226a Pupils of racial minorities
- 10-240
- 10-241
- Section 504, U.S. Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. @ 794

**Policy Adopted: April 28, 2005**

**Policy Revised: October 23, 2008**

**Policy Revised: October 20, 2011**

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**Greenwich, Connecticut**