

POLICY TITLE: <b>Philosophy of Education</b>		
ADOPTION/EFFECTIVE DATE	MOST RECENTLY AMENDED: <b>4/13/2015</b>	MOST RECENTLY REAFFIRMED <b>5/6/2002</b>
POLICY/PROCEDURE MANUAL SUMMARY CATEGORY: <b>Instruction</b>		

- I. Purpose  
The purpose of this policy is to set forth HCPS beliefs related to the learner, the teacher, the curriculum, and the educative process.
- II. Definitions
  - A. The Learner  
An individual who perceives, forms concepts, makes choices, and takes action gradually acquiring those behaviors and skills which are associated with and necessary for continued development.
  - B. The Teacher  
A professional responsible for orchestrating learning throughout the educative process.
  - C. The Curriculum  
A planned and approved instructional program.
  - D. Education  
Education is a primary means by which all young people may experience opportunities for individual growth and by which they may acquire and assimilate the culture and the values of our democratic society.
- III. Policy Statement
  - A. The philosophy of education of Harford County Public Schools shall be aligned with the vision and mission statements of the Board of Education.
  - B. The above philosophy shall be reflected in all that we do to serve our youth - in teaching, in curriculum development, in the formulation of policies and procedures, in the assessment of the effectiveness of schools, in our relationships with students and public, and in all school-related activities.
  - C. The Learner

1. Each person has abilities and needs which are both distinctively individual and shared by others.
11. Each student has an interest in and capacity for learning, and has a right to be provided with learning experiences which are appropriate to learning needs and society.

### D. The Teacher

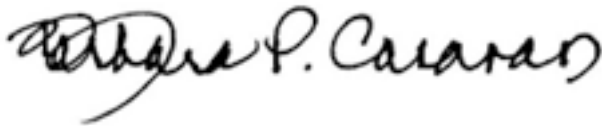
1. The teacher's role in the teaching-learning process is to exemplify the best qualities of our democratic society and culture; to demonstrate the worth of continuous learning; and to plan, promote, and guide the learning of our students by implementing the approved curriculum.
11. The teacher must develop basic understandings, which include the nature of individuals; the nature and process of learning; the processes of change, motivation, communication, and evaluation; the concepts and skills within the subject matter; and the interaction of these elements to engage in analysis according to these understandings, and plan actions consistent with this analysis.
- iii. The teacher utilizes these understandings to discover the learner's needs, purposes, past learning, and present performance in order to develop appropriate learning experiences for each student.
- 1v. Effective teaching must be carefully planned and must utilize appropriate processes.
- v. Planning must be based upon the teacher's mastery of the educative process, sensitivity to the learning environment, and understanding of the learner.
- vi. The teacher must include opportunities for the student to use democratic procedures, assess and clarify values, and make decisions.
- vii. The teacher's choice of instructional activities must reflect continuous assessment and revision of all the factors affecting the learning situation.

### E. The Curriculum

1. The primary purpose of curriculum is to serve the educational needs of each student.
11. The curriculum shall be planned to include opportunities for the student to acquire and use information; develop skills, appreciations, attitudes, and abilities; assimilate values; and develop the processes of critical thinking.
111. The changing nature of society and the rapid expansion of knowledge demand that the curriculum undergoes continuous revision to provide relevant and challenging learning experiences.

- iv. The Curriculum includes learning experiences both in and outside of the classroom.

**Board Approval Acknowledged By:**



Barbara P. Canavan, Secretary and Treasurer  
Board of Education of Harford County

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# POLICY

## Harford County Public Schools

Policy Action Dates					
ACTION	DATE	ACTION	DATE	ACTION	DATE
Amended	1/9/1989				
Reaffirmed	5/6/2002				
Amended	4/13/2015				

Responsibility for Policy Maintenance & References		
LAST EDITOR/DRAFTER NAME: Unknown		JOB POSITION OF LAST EDITOR/DRAFTER Unknown
PERSON RESPONSIBLE		JOB POSITION OF PERSON RESPONSIBLE
DESIGNEE NAME: N/A		JOB POSITION OF DESIGNEE N/A
REFERENCE 1 TYPE:	REFERENCE 1 NO	REFERENCE 1 DESCRIPTION:
REFERENCE 2 TYPE	REFERENCE 2 NO	REFERENCE 2 DESCRIPTION
REFERENCE 3 TYPE	REFERENCE 3 NO	REFERENCE 3 DESCRIPTION
REFERENCE 4 TYPE	REFERENCE 4 NO	REFERENCE 4 DESCRIPTION
REFERENCE 5 TYPE:	REFERENCE 5 NO	REFERENCE 5 DESCRIPTION
POLICY NUMBER PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 1, 2005: Instructional Program .03.05.001		