

We believe in the democratic way of life and our American heritage. This being true, we have the responsibility of passing on an enriched heritage in which each student recognizes his/her own mental, physical, moral and social responsibility to him/herself, the home, school community and country. We believe that this can best be done through a system of free public schools, supported primarily by state and local funds, receiving such federal assistance as is necessary to provide an adequate program of education for all youth, according to their abilities and needs and for adults, depending on facilities and opportunities.

We believe that the Board of Education is a policy-making body, that the Board should formulate school policies with the Superintendent, following consultation with principals, representative teachers and interested citizens of the community. We believe that this will permit a free exchange of ideas among those concerned. We also believe that democratic procedure should be applied in the local school in planning and adopting local policies and programs and that each participant should accept and comply with the majority rule.

We believe the curricula of the schools should be cooperatively planned, continually re-evaluated and revised so as to meet the needs, abilities and interests of not only the college preparatory student, but the student who plans to attend trade, technical, or business school; and terminal student. We believe that student activities are a part of these offerings and that they serve to provide additional opportunities for the student to develop to one's fullest, satisfying his/her interest and desires.

We believe that it is our responsibility to use the latest proven teaching methods, techniques and materials available in order to create a situation conducive to learning, thereby challenging each student to the maximum of one's potentialities. The effectiveness of the learning process is influenced by the teacher's relationship with the pupil. Therefore, the teacher must accept and respect each student as an individual. The teacher should strive to establish rapport with every child but still maintain the dignity of the position.

We believe that it is the responsibility of the school program to attempt to instill in the minds of students that education is a right, a privilege and a duty. It is the responsibility of the child to strive to achieve to one's potential.

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**ADOPTED: August 2, 2001**

**Cherokee County Board of Education**