



Philosophy of Education:

The Nature of the Institution

by

Tammy Mangold, MEd, CST/CFA
Director Surgical Technology, Rolla Technical Center

Introduction

The philosophy of the educational institution is the foundation on which a school is built, and upon which the product of the school program is evaluated. The philosophy subscribed to by the governing board should be a guide in determining the policies, rules and regulations of the school.

Recognizing each student as a unique individual, education should provide an opportunity for the development of each individual within the limitations of his/her capacities. Through education, it is possible for the individual to achieve to the limits of his/her capacities.

In a democratic society, education must help the student realize his/her worth as an individual and should head him/her toward becoming a productive member of society. Strong emphasis must be placed upon democratic values, which are important for an effective and satisfying personal and social life.

The role of the teacher in the educational process is to provide opportunities for the individual to achieve at the maximum level of capacity, to create a learning situation in which individual motivation for learning is the stimulus for achievement, and to promote through teaching and example the principles of the democratic way of life.

The student must have responsibilities in the educational program of the community. The most important of these is attitude. The student is obliged to come with an open mind, equipped with all the necessary materials, ready to fulfill the responsibilities in the learning process. The basic attitude should be that the school is an institution of opportunity, staffed with trained personnel to help the student become a contributing member of society.

Vocational/Technical Schools

Vocational/technical education provides students with seamless school-to-work experience. The philosophy is to train individuals in technologically advanced skills in their chosen occupational area and to create an atmosphere that is welcoming and comfortable for all students regardless of race, gender, ethnic background, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or physical status.

It is the responsibility of the school district to provide, in partnership with the community, the best educational opportunities possible for our students through a commitment to excellence in personnel, facilities, curriculum and instruction. All students:

- Should be prepared to compete and excel in a global society.
- Should be prepared to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens.
- Deserve a safe and nurturing learning environment.
- Deserve the opportunity to realize and maximize their potential.
- Deserve the best educational opportunities possible through a community-wide commitment to excellence.

Community College

Community colleges are committed to high-quality, affordable educational programs and services for residents of the district and the college service area. These educational programs and services may include:

- The first two years of baccalaureate education leading to the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees and certificate programs.

- Associate of Applied Science degrees and certificate programs in occupational-technical education.
- Continuing education programs for adults and youth who seek self-improvement and lifelong learning experiences.
- Comprehensive student services to assist students in planning, organizing, and succeeding in academic and occupational study.
- Developmental education, to prepare students for college-level study.
- Comprehensive academic services and learning resources, to provide supplemental learning assistance for students.
- Community services that support civic cultural, and economic development in the district.
- Diverse student activity opportunities that enhance the educational process.

Conclusion

Local taxes, state or federal funds and student fees support public schools. Private schools receive very little, if any, public money. Their funding comes from student's fees. To supplement this they must rely on grants and donations from the public and/or community.

The foundation of the institution's educational program should be based on the development of competencies in the basic fundamentals of reading, oral and written communication and mathematics and science. It is the responsibility of the school to provide an educational environment for student that will foster and accelerate their intellectual, social and career development.