It is the goal of the board that every student be provided the opportunity to receive a sound basic education and graduate from high school prepared for work, further education, and citizenship. The board recognizes the critical role of parents, governmental and nonprofit agencies, businesses, and the community in helping individual students and the school system meet this goal. To ensure that the educational program meets rigorous academic standards, the board will strive to maintain accreditation of its schools by AdvancED and/or the State Board of Education.

A successful educational program also depends on innovation at the individual school level. The board is committed to allowing administrators at individual schools to develop and implement plans necessary to ensure the educational success of their students.

The board will provide an educational program that offers students the opportunity to receive a sound basic education. The program will meet statewide instructional standards as prescribed by the State Board of Education. The board believes that the administrators of the educational program must strive to provide each student with the opportunity to:

- 1. develop sufficient ability to read, write, and speak the English language and a sufficient knowledge of fundamental mathematics, and physical science to function in a complex and changing society;
- 2. develop sufficient knowledge of geography, history, and basic economic and political systems to make informed choices with regard to issues that affect the student personally or affect the student's community, state, and nation;
- 3. develop sufficient academic and vocational skills to successfully engage in postsecondary education or vocational training and to compete on an equal basis with others in further formal education or gainful employment in contemporary society;
- 4. learn to be responsible for and accept the consequences of his or her conduct and academic performance;
- 5. develop the capacity to examine and solve problems;
- 6. foster respect and appreciation for cultural and ideological diversity and differences;
- 7. develop the ability to be productive in a team environment;
- 8. learn and acquire the skills necessary for a lifetime of continuous learning and adaptation to change in the workplace and society;
- 9. prepare for challenging curriculum beyond secondary school and, when appropriate, complete high school courses required for college entry in less than four years;

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- 10. achieve high levels of success in a rigorous curriculum;
- 11. acquire the skills needed for technological literacy in a rapidly changing world; and
- 12. remain in school and earn a high school diploma and, when appropriate, earn additional college credit.

These goals and objectives of the educational program will be used to guide administrators, teachers and the board in all of their duties, including curriculum development, selection of materials and issues related to instructional time.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-12(32), -12(38), -36, -47, -81; *Leandro v. State*, 346 N.C. 336 (1997); State Board of Education Policies GCS-F-016, GCS-L-006

Cross References: Board Authority and Duties (policy 1010), Curriculum Development (policy 3100), Selection of Instructional Materials (policy 3200), Counseling Program (policy 3610)

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