

<i>Policy Manual</i>	<p>Policy 1 TITLE: GPPSD Mission and Guiding Principles APPROVED: May 26, 2009 AMENDED/REVIEWED: December 10, 2024</p>
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<p>LEGAL REFERENCE: Section 3, 7, 11, 18, 25, 27, 33, 35.1, 51, 52, 53, 67, 222 Education Act; Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act; Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12; Policy and Requirements for School Board Planning and Reporting; School Authority Planning and Reporting Reference Guide</p>	

Policy Background

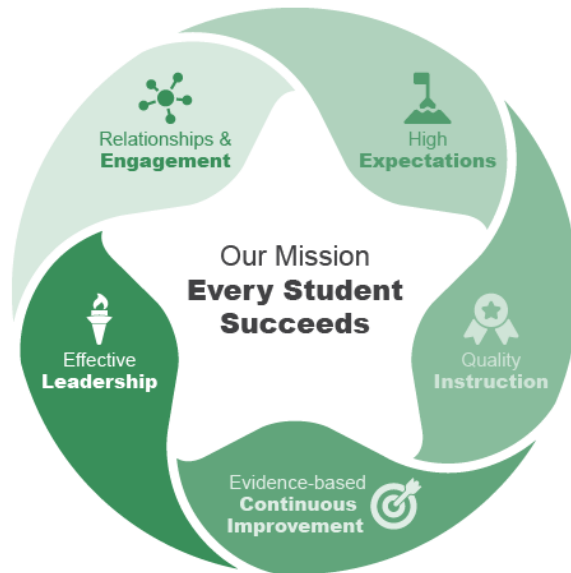
The Board of Trustees of the Grande Prairie Public School Division (the Board), in its role as governor and advocate for public education in our community, has developed the Division’s vision, mission and guiding principles to ensure students achieve their fullest potential. The content of this policy reflects who we are and why we do what we do as a School Division and illustrates our beliefs and values about teaching and learning. The Universal Guiding Principles and Operating Principles in this policy are meant to guide the decisions and actions of every person in our Division. This policy represents the high expectations we have for ourselves to ensure every student succeeds. With students at the core of our work, it is the inter-relationship of our expectations with quality instruction, strong relationships, effective leadership and a focus on continuous improvement that will see us attain our vision.

Mission Statement

The Grande Prairie Public School Division is a learning community in which every student succeeds.

Vision Statement

To be the leading provider of high-quality public education in the Province of Alberta.



Key Elements of the Culture of the Grande Prairie Public School Division

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Universal Guiding Principles

For everything we decide and do, we will hold ourselves accountable and we will ask:

- Is it good for students?
- Will it build trust and good relationships?
- Will it help us improve?
- Is it a responsible thing to do?
- Are we being open, honest and ethical?

Operating Guiding Principles

- Students
 - Unique learning needs of each student will be accommodated;
 - A culture of belonging in schools shall be fostered;
 - Student emotional and physical health and safety shall be ensured;
 - The principles of natural justice and due process in student matters shall be followed;
 - Schools and staff shall establish and communicate high expectations for students when it comes to behavior, attendance, achievement, citizenship and extracurriculars;
 - Every student can expect at least one staff member to be an advocate and encouraging role model who is understanding of their needs; and
 - Schools and staff shall work with parents to establish high expectations and to communicate the important role parents play in student success.
- Continuous Improvement and Innovation
 - We value building assurance through transparency and accountability through sharing readily available data and resources;
 - Continuous improvement shall be a focus at all levels of our Division;
 - Continuous improvement requires a culture focused on inquiry and ongoing Professional Learning;
 - The Division, schools, administrators and teachers shall use evidence to establish specific short- and long-term goals to improve achievement;
 - Staff shall regularly monitor and review evidence gathered during their practice to assess the success of their improvement goals;

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- Staff shall be encouraged to adopt new strategies to support student learning, monitor their progress in a timely fashion, and adapt their strategy when relevant; and
 - We shall regularly share, celebrate and recognize the success achieved by both our students and staff.
- Programs
 - A diversity (breadth and depth) of learning opportunities shall be provided;
 - Partnerships shall be developed;
 - Relevant provincial, national and international opportunities will be explored;
 - Program development shall consider the needs of our students and our community;
 - Programs shall be resourced in a sustainable manner;
 - Great instruction is fundamental to student success. Instruction shall reflect sound instructional strategies, a cooperative learning environment and shall be guided by current educational research;
 - Integration of Information Technology across the curriculum shall enhance student learning, preparing students for their future; and
 - Activities, programs and procedures shall be regularly reviewed and shall be modified or discontinued as appropriate.
- Human Resources
 - All staff are equally valued in our Division and each individual contributes to our success;
 - Mental and physical well-being of staff shall be promoted;
 - We shall seek the best candidate;
 - Provincial leadership and instructional standards of practice identify the competencies expected of our leaders and teachers;
 - Performance evaluation measures shall be implemented;
 - The principles of natural justice and due process shall be followed;
 - Human resource allocation shall be transparent;
 - Human resource allocation shall be sustainable; and
 - We shall invest in building our human capacities.
- Financial Management
 - The Board shall engage in short-term and long-range budgeting;
 - Budgets shall be developed in consultation with the Board and School Administration;

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- Additional revenue streams shall be sought, consistent with the education mandate;
- Financial reserves shall be developed in a strategic manner;
- All financial reporting and resource allocations shall be comprehensive and transparent; and
- Allocation of resources shall be sustainable.

- Facilities
 - Facilities shall be made available for community use;
 - Facilities shall be maintained at the highest standard possible;
 - Facilities shall be environmentally sustainable;
 - Facilities shall be safe and healthy;
 - Long-term facility planning shall occur;
 - Partnerships with other community groups, organizations or Boards to create program and cost saving opportunities shall be encouraged; and
 - Facilities shall continually seek to minimize utility costs through innovative approaches and technology.

- Transportation
 - Where efficient and appropriate, transportation services should be shared with other school jurisdictions, or public service providers;
 - Wherever possible, the system-wide coordination of the transportation shall be ensured; and
 - Transportation services shall be provided in a safe and punctual manner.

- Communication and Engagement
 - We shall value building community by enhancing relationships with and between students, parents, administration and the public to advance student success;
 - The Board shall support and encourage collaborative engagement with stakeholders when relevant;
 - Communication shall be done to inform or promote the Division's success by celebrating our value and values; and
 - We shall pursue the most effective and efficient means of communication both internally and externally with all stakeholders.