

2016-2017 Focus Areas for Directional Policies - Summary

DP-1 Vision, Mission, and Values

Vision

Hinsdale County School District offers exemplary and innovative education for every student by utilizing our highly qualified staff, diverse student population, unique size, mountain location and community resources.

Mission

Hinsdale County School District RE-1 is a unique and dynamic educational community that includes all students, families, staff and community members, creating a learning environment that is safe for all students and staff and is individualized, academically challenging, lively, enriching, respectful and caring for all students. We cultivate students' natural curiosity and extend their learning to our unique natural environment. We strive to prepare students for lifelong learning, responsible citizenship and a balanced, productive life.

Teaching Staff and Administration

- Every effort will be made to recruit, develop and retain excellent teaching and administrative staff.

Fiscal Management:

Sound fiscal management responsibly allocates resources that align with stated values and goals.

DP-3 Professional Development

1. Examination and evaluation of budget in terms of growth in this area.
-

DP-5 Safety

Regarding the safety in and around our facilities:

7. Traffic control monitored.
 9. Ensuring administrative policy manual addresses equipment safety and facility security.
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DP-9 Facilities

1. Delegation of the following duties to the facilities committee:
 - Providing a facility and property needs assessment annually
 - Gathering community input
 - Making recommendations to the Superintendent or Board as appropriate.
4. Plan and look for funding for facilities unique to our environment that facilitate experiential, hands on learning: research projects; athletics and physical education; and early childhood education

Policy Type: Directional Policy**Vision**

Hinsdale County School District offers exemplary and innovative education for every student by utilizing our highly qualified staff, diverse student population, unique size, mountain location, and community resources.

Mission

Hinsdale County School District RE-1 is a unique and dynamic educational community that includes all students, families, staff and community members, creating a learning environment that is safe for all students and staff and is individualized, academically challenging, lively, enriching, respectful and caring for all students. We cultivate students' natural curiosity and extend their learning to our unique natural environment. We strive to prepare students for lifelong learning, responsible citizenship and a balanced, productive life.

Values

The Board is guided by the following beliefs and values:

Learning:

- Learning happens best when it is on a flexible continuum, is individually paced, attends to each student's diverse learning style and offers appropriate acceleration, enrichment and multi-graded grouping.
- Sparking student's natural curiosity, and allowing them opportunity to pursue mastery of subjects of greatest interest to them, makes school meaningful, lively exciting and fun.
- Successful academic programs are individualized, dynamic, challenging, standards based, enriching, balanced and research based.
- Age appropriate and integrated use of technology is vital to the education of students
- Our physical surroundings and community offer invaluable learning opportunities for all students, families, staff and community members.

Individual Children:

- EVERY child is able to learn and is entitled to an exemplary, innovative, and well-balanced education.
- EVERY individual has worth, talent, and special ability
- Individuals learn in a variety of ways. Academic, social and emotional needs of students are recognized and appreciated for their uniqueness.
- An appreciation of individual strengths, culture and diversity enriches all learning.

Families and Community:

- The family is the foundation of society from which our values and beliefs begin and has the final authority and responsibility for the education of its children.
- The school recognizes and honors the right to individual family beliefs and values.
- School, family, and community are partners in the educational process. Family participation is highly valued and sought.
- The quality of education affects the quality of our community.

Teaching Staff and Administration

- The Superintendent is the educational leader and is responsible for the safe and effective administration of the students, staff and facilities.
- Every child deserves to be taught by a talented, competent, effective, dedicated, enthusiastic and highly qualified teacher.
- Every effort will be made to recruit, develop and retain excellent teaching and administrative staff.
- Students benefit and teachers are most satisfied and effective when teachers are mentored, the staff functions as a team and opportunities for professional development are provided.

Civic Responsibility:

- Service projects, community services and involvement in community and civic affairs are cornerstones to prepare students for active citizenship and engagement in a democracy.
- Students need opportunities to participate meaningfully in all arenas of school life, for example: policies, classroom instruction, dispute resolution and goal setting.
- Actively modeling and encouraging students to value and respect themselves and others contributes to a safe, respectful learning environment and to responsible citizenship.

Health:

Physical, emotional, and social health, including nutrition are integral to a child's ability to learn.

Evaluation Methods:

Evaluation of student growth and achievement is crucial and is best done using a variety of individualized measures and methods involving students, parents, and teachers.

Fiscal Management:

Sound fiscal management responsibly allocates resources that align with stated values and goals.

Adopted 1/24/2002

Hinsdale County School District RE-1, Lake City, Colorado

Revised 1/22/2004

3/17/2005 1st reading as modified

4/28/2005 2nd reading approved

3/22/2007 1st reading as modified

4/26/2007 2nd reading approved

1/22/09 1st reading as modified

2/26/09 2nd reading approved

1/28/10 1st reading as modified

2/25/2010 2nd reading approved

7/19/2012 modified to conform with administrative policy AD, School District Mission\

2/27/2014 1st reading as modified

3/29/2014 2nd reading approved

Monitoring Method: Board self-assessment

Monitoring Frequency: Annually in January

For 2016-2017, areas of focus shall be the following:

Vision

Hinsdale County School District offers exemplary and innovative education for every student by utilizing our highly qualified staff, diverse student population, unique size, mountain location and community resources.

Mission

Hinsdale County School District RE-1 is a unique and dynamic educational community that includes all students, families, staff and community members, creating a learning environment that is safe for all students and staff and is individualized, academically challenging, lively, enriching, respectful and caring for all students. We cultivate students' natural curiosity and extend their learning to our unique natural environment. We strive to prepare students for lifelong learning, responsible citizenship and a balanced, productive life.

Teaching Staff and Administration

- Every effort will be made to recruit, develop and retain excellent teaching and administrative staff.

Fiscal Management:

Sound fiscal management responsibly allocates resources that align with stated values and goals.

Policy Type: Directional Policy

Measurement of Academic Achievement

Hinsdale County School District will maintain consistent and reliable student evaluation and guidance tools. These processes will be understandable to parents and community and result in improved academic achievement for every student.

Areas of new or continued investigation, performance, evaluation and growth identified for this policy shall include:

1. State required evaluation methods and processes: Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS), Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS), ACT, District and School Performance Frameworks, Unified Improvement Plan
2. Locally designed or adopted evaluation methods and processes: Northwest Evaluation Association Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS), progress monitoring measures, ACT Aspire, ACT Workkeys, PSAT/NMSQT, Personalized Education Process (DP-6, #7), Alpine Achievement System Learning Plans

1st reading 05/23/2002

2nd reading 06/27/2002

3rd reading and approval 07/25/02

Revised 1/22/2004

Revised 10/28/2004

1st reading approved as revised 1/26/2006

2nd reading and approval 2/23/2006

1st reading approved as revised 11/16/2006

2nd reading and approval 12/12/2006

1st reading as revised 10/23/2008

2nd reading approved as revised 12/12/2008

Monitoring Method: Internal Report

Monitoring Frequency: Annually in January

1st reading approved as revised 10/28/2010

2nd reading and approval 11/18/2010

1st reading as revised 10/27/2011

2nd reading approved as revised 11/17/2011

1st reading as revised 10/25/2012

2nd reading approved as revised 11/15/2012

1st reading as revised 10/24/2013

2nd reading approved as revised 11/21/2013

1st reading as revised 10/22/2015

2nd reading approved as revised 11/12/2015

Policy Type: Directional Policy**Professional Development**

Hinsdale County School District will grow in expertise and professionalism on the part of board, administration, teachers and staff.

Areas of new or continued investigation, performance, evaluation and growth identified for this policy shall include:

1. Examination and evaluation of budget in terms of growth in this area.
2. Participation in state and federal required professional development (Licensing/state and federal laws).
3. Identification of and participation in locally desired directions for professional development, including:
 - a. Professionalism, leadership and team building
 - b. Content knowledge and teaching expertise
4. Linking professional development to an evaluation system.
5. Linking professional development plans to district vision, mission, values and goals.
6. Encouraging non-teaching staff members to engage in job related development and training.

Revised 1/22/2004

1st reading approved as revised 1/26/2006

2nd reading and approval 2/23/2006

Monitoring Method: Internal Report

Monitoring Frequency: Annually in January

For 2016-2017, areas of focus shall be the following:

1. Examination and evaluation of budget in terms of growth in this area.

Policy Type: Directional Policy**Health**

Hinsdale County School District supports and maintains a comprehensive health program for all students and encourages greater participation in, and awareness of, the health and the well-being of all students, staff, board, parents and community.

Areas of new or continued investigation, performance, evaluation and growth identified for this policy shall include:

1. Support of continuing comprehensive health education for grades PreK-12.
2. Fiscal support for the school nurse and support for school health functions and educational offerings.
3. A system to ensure that parents are aware of their child's health education program.
4. Support for healthy student life within and outside of school by promoting physical activity, mental health and sound nutrition.
5. Adherence to state and national nutrition guidelines to ensure school snacks and hot lunches are of high nutritional quality and promote good health.
6. Support for activities between the school and the Lake City Area Medical Center and Hinsdale Public Health and Community Services.
7. Support and promotion of a minimum of one organized physical activity/sport through all grades.
8. Promotion of individualized, life-long sports/activities for all students.
9. Development of the physical environment to support and encourage increased activity, physical fitness, skills and health.

Revised 1/22/2004

1st reading approved 4/28/2005

2nd reading 5/26/2005 – adopted

1st reading approved 1/24/2008

2nd reading 2/28/2008 – adopted

1st reading approved as modified 2/26/2008

2nd reading approved 3/26/2009

1st reading approved as modified 2/25/2010

2nd reading approved 3/18/2010

2/26/2015, 1st reading as revised

3/19/2015, 2nd reading approved

Monitoring Method: Internal Report

Monitoring Frequency: Annually in January

Policy Type: Directional Policy**Safety**

Hinsdale County School District evaluates the safety of its schools and takes appropriate action to ensure student, teacher, staff, administration and visitor safety.

Areas of new or continued investigation, performance, evaluation and growth identified for this policy shall include:

Regarding our Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) CLIMB program:

1. Prevention of bullying: Utilization of a consistent model of bullying prevention and conflict resolution for all students and staff.
2. Providing instruction and administrative policies regarding internet safety.
3. Prevention of sexual harassment or other harassment as described in State law and in administrative policies JBB, JICDD, JICDE, JKBA.

Regarding the medical safety of students:

4. Medical care for students provided as prescribed by State law.
5. Medical training for staff is provided by Lake City Area Medical Center staff and the Public Health Nurse.
6. School nursing provided by the Public Health Nurse (DP-4).

Regarding the safety in and around our facilities:

7. Traffic control monitored.
8. Annually:
 - inspection of the physical plant (building/grounds/trees) by the state's child care facility licensing office, the County environmental health official, the County code enforcement officer, our insurance risk-management personnel, local fire marshal and Colorado Department of Public Safety Division of Fire Prevention and Control.
 - school safety review as required by statute
9. Ensuring administrative policy manual addresses equipment safety and facility security.
10. Consistent staff and student training regarding emergency procedures plan (Standard Response Protocol) and security procedures.

Revised 1/22/2004

Revised 1/27/2005

3/17/2005 1st reading approved as revised
4/28/2005 2nd reading approved
2/23/2006, 1st reading
3/30/2006, approved
4/26/2007, 1st reading as modified
5/24/2007, 2nd reading approved
2/26/2009, 1st reading as modified
3/26/2009, 2nd reading approved
2/25/2010, 1st reading as modified
3/18/2010, 2nd reading approved
2/23/2012, 1st reading as modified
3/22/2012, 2nd reading approved
3/21/2013, 1st reading as modified
4/25/2013, 2nd reading approved
2/27/2014, 1st reading as revised
3/29/2014, 2nd reading approved
2/26/2015, 1st reading as revised
3/19/2015, 2nd reading approved

CROSS REF.: Administrative Policy ADD, Safe Schools

Monitoring Method: Internal Report

Monitoring Frequency: Annually in January

For 2016-2017, areas of focus shall be the following:

Regarding the safety in and around our facilities:

7. Traffic control monitored.

9. Ensuring administrative policy manual addresses equipment safety and facility security.

Policy Type: Directional Policy

Educational Quality

Hinsdale County School District continues the Vision, Mission and Values of the District (see DP-1 and GP-1) and a commitment to state standards.

Areas of new or continued investigation, performance, evaluation, resource allocation and/or growth identified for this policy shall include:

1. Commitment to Quality Instruction

Every student deserves to be taught by a talented, competent, dedicated and highly qualified teacher. Student learning is linked to teacher clarity, enthusiasm, variability of lesson approaches, using higher order thinking, employing students' ideas and probing student comments (Doyle, 1985). To this end, Hinsdale School district offers quality teachers and staff a professional environment and communicates and expects high standards of professional behavior. Quality instruction standards for the Hinsdale School District are outlined in Administrative Policy GCAA. Unique instructional practices, attributes and characteristics expected of Hinsdale School District instructional staff are as follows:

- Creative and active student engagement in Hinsdale County's unique mountain environment, local scientific research, history, culture and art.
- Ability to provide individualized, differentiated instruction to learners in multi-grade classes.
- Analysis of data from evaluation methods to inform instruction and guide resource allocation
- Understanding and appreciation of the students, parents, staff and community members in our small town setting and remote location.
- Experiential, inquiry-oriented, higher order learning practices that take learning beyond the textbook and engage students in real world learning.
- Commitment to the Personalized Education Process, including analysis of student work and learning and the ability to make adjustments to teaching methods and tools as necessary.
- Participation in professional development that supports the educational needs of Hinsdale School district students and improves quality of instruction.
- Knowledge and appropriate application of technology to support student learning and higher order thinking.
- Commitment to work in a collegial manner and be willing to learn and grow from fellow staff.

2. Commitment to recruiting and developing and retaining quality teachers

- Aggressive recruitment of excellent teachers with educational practices in line with the district's vision, mission and expectations.

- Hinsdale School district will promote the Lake City Community School, improve salary offerings and investigate ways to support living in Hinsdale County.
- Teachers will participate in exciting and challenging professional development, set annual goals for improvement and engage in a purposeful evaluation to improve educational instruction.
- Probationary teachers will receive on-going mentoring, support and evaluation focused on improving teaching practices.

3. Commitment to a challenging, motivating, fun and thorough course of study for all students occurring both in and outside of the classroom.

- All core curriculum courses offered, including foreign language
- Additional on-line learning courses are available and are monitored and supported by teaching staff
- Curriculum is adopted and developed that is standards based and is aligned and sequenced across grade levels.
- Comprehensive approaches are used for math, reading and writing instruction and all staff use common vocabulary in communicating instruction
- Outside learning opportunities, including field trips and research projects, that foster an appreciation for our local environment and for the experience of life and opportunity outside Lake City are offered
- Fun, happy, memorable, lively education process for all students
- One significant, life-changing trip for each child during his/her school experience

4. Co-Curricular Development

Hinsdale County School District provides opportunities for students' personal development in co-curricular disciplines or activities including physical activity, athletics, student organizations and clubs, art, music, speech and drama by:

- Support of a minimum of one school sponsored group sport/activity each year
- Continued coordination with the Lake City Area Recreation Department to increase student opportunities for recreation and activities
- Cooperation with Build A Generation to help develop opportunities for students
- Continued investigation to increase student access to regional and statewide opportunities and activities
- Support for staff interested in sponsoring student clubs and organizations

5. Social/Emotional Development

Hinsdale County School District helps students manage emotions and learn and apply interpersonal skills by:

- Maintaining clear and consistent standards and expectations of behavior to guide students in being responsible citizens and leading a balanced and productive life.
- Adopting common conflict resolution and discipline practices that are practiced by staff and students and communicated to parents

- Respecting and appreciating diversity and multi-cultural interaction, learning and discovery

6. Citizenship

Hinsdale County School District works toward teaching students to demonstrate good civic responsibility at age-appropriate levels by:

- Encouraging civic engagement opportunities for all students and requiring Community Service credits for graduation.
- Offering opportunities to actively engage in school and civic processes, e.g. student council, Build A Generation, student school board representative, Town Council and County Commissioner meetings.
- Promoting and supporting student leadership opportunities.

7. Commitment to a personalized education process to include:

- Planning a challenging, enriching and personalized course of study for each student
- Teacher, parent and student participation in bi-annual goal setting conferences
- Acceleration and pacing to meet basic educational needs and higher level skills.
- Analysis of assessment data to evaluate growth
- Exploration of comprehensive qualitative evaluation system, in addition to quantitative measures, including portfolios of student and teacher selected work, student reflection and assessment of work, and student choice projects.
- Celebration of student achievement

8. Preparation and counseling for post high school educational and occupational experiences

- Initiate preparation and counseling for post high school in 6th grade.
- Offer high school students academic counseling, test preparation and college entrance examinations, career discovery, tours of educational institutions and post high school planning counseling.
- Explore vocational work-study opportunities.

1st reading February 28, 2002
 2nd reading March 28, 2002
 3rd reading, adopted April 25, 2002
 Revised 1/22/2004
 1st reading approved 4/28/2005
 2nd reading 5/26/2005 – adopted
 1st reading 10/27/2005
 1st reading as revised 1/26/2006
 2nd reading 2/23/2006
 3rd reading, approved 3/30/2006
 1st reading 9/24/2009

2nd reading, approved 10/22/09
 1st reading as revised 9/23/2010
 2nd reading, 10/28/2010
 1st reading as revised 9/27/2012
 2nd reading, approved 10/25/2012
 1st reading as revised 9/24/2015
 2nd reading, approved 10/22/2015

Monitoring Method: Internal Report
Monitoring Frequency: Annually in January

Policy Type: Directional Policy**Community/Parent Satisfaction and Involvement**

Hinsdale County School District fosters satisfaction and encourages involvement of parents and community in our schools.

Areas of new or continued investigation, performance, evaluation and growth identified for this policy shall include:

1. State and federal required participation opportunities for community members and parents
2. Locally designed participation opportunities for community members and parents, including:
 - a. Citizen speakers and classroom volunteers, with a particular emphasis on participation of senior citizens so as to enhance student awareness of the history and knowledge these citizens represent
 - b. Local celebration and appreciation events for parents and community
 - c. PTSA
 - d. Board designated committees
3. Maintaining a pleasant, exciting and inviting school climate
4. Engaging in accurate, understandable, thorough and timely communications and exchanges with parents and community

1st reading: 6-27-02

2nd reading: 7-25-02

Approved 8-22-02

Revised 1/22/2004

Revised 7/28/2005

1st reading as revised 8/26/2010

Approved 2nd reading 9/23/2010

Monitoring Method: Internal Report

Monitoring Frequency: Annually in January

Policy Type: Directional Policy**Board Cohesiveness and Leadership**

In carrying out the vision, mission and values of the District, the members of Hinsdale County School Board are united in their commitment to openness, respect, honesty, courage, fun and perseverance in their relationships with one another and with the community, administration, staff, teachers, students, and parents.

Areas of new or continued investigation, performance, evaluation and growth identified for this policy shall include:

1. Use of self-evaluation and reflection tools and processes to improve performance
2. Commitment to support future boards and new board members in achieving growth in the area of board cohesiveness and leadership
3. Commitment to continued annual planning/relationship building time for the board
4. Maintaining board sense of humor, interest and fun
5. Annual assessment, planning and budgeting for board member development
6. Encourage student representative participation
7. Evaluation of board member's reasons for resigning to improve screening/interviewing process for potential appointees.

Revised 1/22/2004

Approved, 2nd reading 6/26/08

1st reading 6/25/2009

Approved, 2nd reading, 7/30/2009

1st reading as revised 5/27/2010

Approved, 2nd reading, 6/24/2010

1st reading as revised 5/19/2016

Approved, 2nd reading, 6/16/2016

Monitoring Method: Board self-assessment

Monitoring Frequency: Annually in January

Policy Type: Directional Policy

Facilities

We believe that a quality educational program is affected to a great extent by the environment within which it functions. The development of a quality educational program and school facilities which promote the implementation of the program go hand in hand. Therefore it is the goal of the Board to provide and maintain the facilities needed for the enrollment and the types of facilities supportive of the educational program.

Areas of new or continued investigation, performance, evaluation and growth identified for this policy shall include:

1. Delegation of the following duties to the facilities committee:
 - Providing a facility and property needs assessment annually
 - Gathering community input
 - Making recommendations to the Superintendent or Board as appropriate.
2. Fiscal responsibility to taxpayers
3. Tying facilities to mission, vision and values, as well as current research and understanding of student educational needs.
4. Plan and look for funding for facilities unique to our environment that facilitate experiential, hands on learning: research projects; athletics and physical education; and early childhood education
5. Enhance best use of facility by extending use to community
6. Ongoing evaluation of use of school property.
 - Review Facility Master Plan annually.

Revised 1/22/2004

Revised 7/27/2004

1st reading as revised 7/28/2005

Approved 2nd reading 8/25/2005

1st reading as revised 1/24/2008

Approved 2nd reading 2/28/2008

1st reading as revised 7/22/2010

Approved 2nd reading 8/26/2010

1st reading as revised 7/10/2014

Approved 2nd reading 8/21/2014

1st reading as revised 6/16/2016

Approved 2nd reading 7/21/2016

CROSS REFS.: EL-11, School Safety

Monitoring Method: Board self-assessment

Monitoring Frequency: Annually in January

For 2016-2017, area of focus shall be the following:

1. Delegation of the following duties to the facilities committee:
 - Providing a facility and property needs assessment annually
 - Gathering community input
 - Making recommendations to the Superintendent or Board as appropriate.
4. Plan and look for funding for facilities unique to our environment that facilitate experiential, hands on learning: research projects; athletics and physical education; and early childhood education

Policy Type: Directional Policy**Choice**

Hinsdale County School District supports all Hinsdale County School District students whether they choose to receive their education in Hinsdale County, any other school district, home schooling or enrollment in an online school, in order to:

- Allow them to develop to their fullest potential
- Respect their family values and beliefs
- Not inhibit any special characteristics, talents or abilities they possess
- Meet their unique learning needs and styles
- Not compromise their health, safety or welfare

This policy shall not pose an undue financial burden on the district or require the expenditure of public funds in derogation of the Board's fiduciary responsibility to the citizens of the district.

District-funded transportation is not available to students who elect to attend another school district through inter-district choice policy (JFBB) or statute (C.R.S. 22-36-101). (See DP-11, Transportation and EL-19, Scope of Transportation)

1st reading 7/25/02

2nd reading 8/22/02

Approved 9/26/02

Revised 1/22/2004

Revised 4/22/2004

Revised 1/27/2005

1st reading approved 4/28/2005

2nd reading 5/26/2005 – adopted

1st reading, revision approved, 5/25/2006

2nd reading, revision approved 6/22/2006

1st reading as revised 3/26/2009

2nd reading approved as revised 4/23/2009

1st reading as revised 6/24/2010

2nd reading approved as revised 7/22/2010

1st reading as revised 3/24/2011

2nd reading approved as 4/28/2011

Monitoring Method: Board self-assessment

Monitoring Frequency: Annually in January

Policy Type: Directional Policy**Transportation**

The school district's transportation program is designed, when financially possible, to transport students residing in Hinsdale County School District RE-1 who live more than five miles from school to and from school (see EL-19, Scope of Transportation Services) in a safe, efficient, and economical manner (see DP-10, Choice). In addition to regularly scheduled routes, school transportation equipment may be provided for school activities whenever possible and whenever such use does not interfere with regular routes (see administrative policy EEAC, Transportation Scheduling and Routing for allocation of school vehicles prioritization). To the extent the District can provide transportation for other purposes, consistent with insurance coverage and without undue financial burden on the district, it will do so in accordance with administrative policy EEAFB (Use of School Vehicles by Community Groups).

The safety and welfare of student riders shall be the first consideration in all matters pertaining to transportation. Driver training and vehicle maintenance shall be in compliance with Colorado Department of Education Transportation regulations.

Revised 1/22/2004

1st reading as revised 6/24/2010

2nd reading approved as revised 7/22/2010

1st reading as revised 4/28/2011

2nd reading 5/26/2011

1st reading as revised 7/10/2014

2nd reading approved 8/21/2014

Monitoring Method: Internal Report

Monitoring Frequency: Annually in January