

# Purposes, Goals, and Objectives

## Objectives

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**Objectives:** The Vernon school system shall focus on developing, applying, and reinforcing proficiency in the fundamental tools of learning - the basic skills of communication and computation. In successive levels and years, these basic skills are applied to an ever widening range of academic and practical disciplines, as well as more complex skills and aesthetic experiences. The curriculum at all levels shall be planned, sequential, challenging, and motivational. It will encourage creativity and allow flexibility.

The system's staff and curriculum shall foster each student's total development - intellectual, physical, emotional, social, occupational and cultural. Realizing that the interests and abilities of individuals vary, the primary goal of the Vernon educational system is to assist students to move continuously toward the highest level of potential development. Students shall be guided on how to learn effectively so they develop the will and capacity for life-long learning to benefit both themselves and the society in which they live. The overall learning process shall be focused on helping students to value the lessons of the past and welcome the uncertainties and challenges of the future, while coping effectively with the demands of the present.

**Performance Objectives:** In achieving its goals, the Board will take the appropriate steps necessary to attract, support and maintain a highly qualified and motivated professional staff and will utilize an effective system of evaluation and accountability to maintain high standards.

In light of the foregoing, the Board's educational planning will focus on a dynamic program of planned experiences which shall:

1. enable students to grow academically, socially, and emotionally by encouraging them to accept responsibility and to understand the consequences of their decisions;
2. provide students with opportunities to master basic skills in English, including the ability to read, write, listen, speak proficiently and effectively; to critically evaluate information; to manipulate basic mathematical concepts; to acquire a general knowledge of the sciences; and to become competent members of society;
3. enable students to apply knowledge, problem-solving techniques, creativity, and current technology from the various disciplines to the challenges presented by our changing society and physical environment;

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4. enable students to pursue independent thought and research through both assigned and self-initiated projects, as well as to demonstrate decision-making, reasoning and problem-solving skills alone and in groups;
5. enable students to explore the world's cultural heritage through experiences which help to broaden social awareness;
6. provide curricular and co-curricular activities which will give students the opportunity to grow aesthetically, emotionally, intellectually, physically, and socially through interaction with others;
7. provide appropriate programs and services for all students with special needs;
8. enable students to develop aesthetic appreciation through integral experiences in art, music, science, literature and languages;
9. enable students to acquire the skills necessary for intellectual growth using a variety of resources for information, including print materials, media, computers and other technology to support their learning;
10. enable students to develop as healthy and self-reliant individuals through health and physical education programs and services;
11. provide opportunities for the development of skills and knowledge which will lead to mature decision making and economic independence and to good management of money, property and resources;
12. enable students to develop personal and vocational skills through appropriate grade level experiences in foreign language, practical and technical arts;

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13. enable students to meet their academic, personal, social, emotional, and vocational needs through guidance, counseling, and special services;
14. enable students to learn the responsibilities of citizenship in a democracy, emphasizing participation in global, national, and community affairs through practical curricula and co-curricular activities in the social sciences;
15. enhance the capabilities of the staff by setting expectations and by providing opportunities for growth through professional development and other experiences;
16. foster greater community understanding and support by encouraging citizen involvement in school activities and programs;
17. provide for staff and students a safe and orderly environment which is conducive to the learning process.