



**Urbana School  
District 116**

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MEMO

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|-------|------------------------------------|
| TO:   | USD116 Board of Education          |
| FROM: | Donald Owen, Superintendent        |
| DATE: | September 3, 2013                  |
| RE:   | Recommended Policy Changes to 1:30 |
| CC:   | Lori Johnson, Recording Secretary  |

Board of Education Policy 1:30, School District Philosophy, is a list of belief statements. When the BOE adopted the Strategic Plan in 2011, it contained a list of belief statements recommended by the Strategic Planning Team.

I am recommending that BOE Policy 1:30 be revised to incorporate the belief statements of the USD116 Strategic Plan.

Attached is the current wording of BOE 1:30 School District Philosophy as well as the proposed wording taken from the Strategic Plan.

Current wording:

## **1:30 School District Philosophy**

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The Urbana School District #116 Board of Education believes that:

1. All students can learn.
2. What is best for students should be the major criteria in all decision-making.
3. Schools should develop individuals who recognize and produce quality.
4. Learning opportunities should be appropriate for each individual
5. Every individual has dignity and value.
6. All individuals should be treated with fundamental fairness.
7. The educational process should prepare students to expect, cope with, and have an impact on change as citizens of a global community.
8. Cultural diversity strengthens the educational experience.
9. A strong relationship exists between expectations and achievement.
10. Quality education is a shared responsibility of students, schools, families and community.
11. The educational environment should enable people to take effective control of their own lives.
12. Equal and quality educational opportunity is a fundamental right of all people.
13. Schools must be places where students can take risks and make mistakes within the learning process without blame, punishment, or ridicule.
14. Schools belong to the community and reflect its desires, efforts, and values.

Rev. 02/10

Proposed changes with wording taken from Strategic Plan:

## **1:30 School District Philosophy**

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The Urbana School District #116 Board of Education believes:

- each individual has inherent value.
- everyone can and will be a successful learner.
- learning throughout life is essential for people to thrive in a time of constant change.
- higher expectations and hard work are necessary for individuals to achieve full potential.
- trusting, positive relationships are built on honesty, integrity and respect.
- quality education is essential to sustaining and improving a healthy and just democracy.
- change, which involves risk, is necessary to stimulate creativity, innovation, progress and growth.
- caring and nurturing relationships are essential in every person's life.
- everyone benefits when people willingly contribute to the well being of others and the greater good.
- understanding and appreciating individual and cultural differences is essential for success in a diverse interdependent world.
- each person is responsible for his or her own choices and actions.
- educational excellence is a shared responsibility of our entire community.