

VIGO COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

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**PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION**

Historically, schools have reflected societal needs by transmitting aspects of society's culture to the students in addition to directing students and providing them with opportunities toward self-fulfillment. Because there has been a shift in society from the industrial age to an information age, the goals and needs of society have precipitated a new direction for education which include life long learning opportunities for all, citizens who can communicate and solve problems, and an informed electorate.

To the fulfillment of these goals, student growth in the learning process is stressed throughout our schools. Elementary schools begin to build a knowledge base and develop communities of learners challenging its members to seek personal excellence, intellectual growth, and social interaction. Middle schools continue to broaden the knowledge base of students, focusing on academic achievement, living and working in a democratic society, and developing intellectual characteristics. In order for students to become a productive part of the 21st Century, high school students develop critical thinking abilities, self-worth as learners, capacity for self-discipline and inner control, and a sound work ethic. Equally important is the recognition of multicultural and social strategies. School personnel foster the importance of developing shared decision making, higher level thinking, cooperation, communication, and problem solving. With an emphasis on motivation and responsibility, students develop a personal commitment to life long learning. Toward this end, students develop literacy across the disciplines, develop a foundation to explore, accommodate to changing conditions, and actively create new knowledge over the course of their lives.

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