STUDENT GOALS AND POLICY OBJECTIVES

Schools exist primarily to provide educational opportunities for the children of the community. The opportunities are determined by legal authority and the desire of the residents as reflected by the decisions of the local school board.

The major tasks of the instructional program shall be established in the fashion of policy formulated and prioritized by the school board. Implementation and evaluation is to be directed by the Superintendent of Schools.

Students shall be considered as individuals and treated with the respect and courtesy common to the ideals of our nation and society.

The long range goal shall be to assist the student in the development of attitudes, skills, and habits that will contribute to a productive life and a desire for life long learning.
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The graduation standards establish the goals and general expectations of what Salem students should know and be able to do by the end of grade twelve. They will be attained as students acquire the facts, concepts, skills, and processes enumerated at each grade level and as presented in the curriculum frameworks for each of the standards. This will ensure that students have the opportunity to acquire the prescribed facts, concepts, skills and processes in an organized and defined scope and sequence for grades R-12.

Because the ability to read is essential for students to succeed as learners, both in school and throughout their lives, and to become contributing members of society, it is of special interest and concern to the Salem School board. Students must be able to deal critically with a variety of complex texts including literary, narrative, content, informational, and practical works. Good readers combine the inclination to read with the ability to use monitoring and discussion to develop understanding. They employ multiple strategies and processes to understand the written word. Students cannot learn to read in a vacuum. A good reading program combines the use of assigned materials with the opportunity for students to select materials for themselves. Throughout their formal instruction in English language arts, students should read authentic materials including worthy examples of literature as well as texts that reinforce other areas of the school’s curriculum. Consequently, ensuring that each student can read to his/her ability is the board’s priority instructional goal.

Therefore upon graduation, Salem School District students will be able to know and demonstrate competency in the following standards:

Standard #1:

Students can demonstrate the ability to read and comprehend.

Rationale: Students will develop their abilities and become fully literate citizens of society. Students must develop increasingly sophisticated skills in understanding, evaluating, and appreciating what they read, and they must develop strategies which will enable them to negotiate an ever-growing variety of written material.

Standard #2:

Students can demonstrate the ability to write.

Rationale: Writing is an essential means of sharing information. Therefore, it is necessary for students to understand the process of writing and use it as a tool for communication.

Standard #3:

Students can demonstrate the ability to apply mathematical principals.

Rationale: Mathematics is an essential knowledge base of all societies. Mathematics provides students a context for ordering thoughts, making logical arguments and drawing inferences. The sharing of knowledge and resources, as well as competition, requires the ability to recognize patterns, manipulate numbers, symbols, and shapes from the concrete to abstract levels.
Standard #4:

Students can demonstrate the ability to apply scientific principles.

**Rationale:** Daily living requires students to have a basic knowledge of scientific facts and processes. Through observation, prediction, and inference, students learn to evaluate, draw conclusions, and validate results.

Standard #5:

Students can demonstrate the ability to apply historical and geographical information.

**Rationale:** History is the link to our heritage and thus vital to our development as a people. Through the study of history, students come to understand society’s development over a period of time. The study of geography explains the interdependent relationship of human beings and their environment.

Standard #6:

Students can demonstrate the ability to use a second language.

**Rationale:** Knowledge of an international language facilitates communication in a multi-cultural world. Language education enables students to develop insight into their own language, communicate across cultures, make connections with other disciplines, and participate in the global marketplace. Through mastery of key phrases, students can perceive mutual needs, acquire information, and adapt to unfamiliar surrounds.

Standard #7:

Students can demonstrate the ability to apply economic principles.

**Rationale:** Participation in a world economy requires students to understand the fundamentals of economics such as the distribution of resources, choice, production, exchange, demand, and supply. Daily living required that students have an understanding of the ramifications of personal economic decisions.

Standard #8:

Students can demonstrate the ability to access and apply information using appropriate resources.

**Rationale:** As students learn to access and apply information, students are able to find answers to questions and solutions to problems. As these skills are acquired, students become independent learners.

Standard #9:

Students can demonstrate the ability to use a computer.

**Rationale:** Computers are an integral part of daily life. Therefore, it is essential that students be proficient in word processing, databases, and spreadsheets in order to manage information.
**Standard #10:**

Students can demonstrate the ability to communicate with an audience orally, visually, or through the performing arts.

**Rationale:** As students learn to communicate with an audience, they develop self-confidence. This provides students with other methods of demonstrating knowledge and allows for creative expression.

**Standard #11:**

Students can demonstrate the ability to set short and long term goals.

**Rationale:** People develop their potential through goal setting. Planning enhances talent, provides direction, clarifies purpose, increases effectiveness and is essential for success.

**Standard #12:**

Students can demonstrate character and citizenship through community services.

**Rationale:** The success of any democratic society depends on the active participation of its members. Therefore, students will be active participants in the community as a way of demonstrating character and citizenship. Community service is participation in unpaid activities designed to provide opportunities for students to apply character and citizenship skills outside of schools.

**Standard #13:**

Students will participate in activities designed to develop physical and mental well being.

**Rationale:** Physical and mental health are essential to life long learning and participation in community life. Physical education and guidance programs develop positive attitudes toward self and allow people to explore their abilities and limits under proper supervision and counseling.