

LEXINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICY

POLICY ON SELF-ESTEEM

Date Approved by
School Committee:

10/9/86

Signature of Chair:

On File

Page 1 of 2

I. BACKGROUND

In 1984 the School Committee established as a goal for the school system, the “enhancement of self-esteem.”

The enhancement of self-esteem

While the development of the intellect remains the central purpose of the school system, the enhancement of self-esteem is a related and particularly important mission. Students must develop intellectual skills and, as important, the initiative and the confidence to employ these skills both within and beyond the classroom. The school system must continue to identify, create and maintain opportunities for all students to experience high achievement and success.

II. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The importance of this goal is supported by the established relationship between positive self-esteem and achievement in school. While self-esteem is influenced by parents, peers, and a variety of experiences outside the classroom, research indicates that school does influence self-esteem and can adopt practices which enhance self-esteem.

III. APPLICATION

In support of this policy the School Committee is prepared to take the following steps:

To provide opportunities for staff, parents, and administrators to develop a shared understanding of the meaning and importance of self-esteem.

To encourage staff to review current programs and policies to determine their effect upon self-esteem.

To provide opportunities for staff to learn and introduce classroom strategies and attitudes which support academic achievement and self-esteem.

To seek additional ways to promote self-esteem among staff.

To support the use of classroom and school practices which promote student participation in decision-making and in the development and maintenance of democratic

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Page 2 of 2

procedures.

To employ a variety of instructional grouping patterns, as opposed to rigid ability grouping.

To provide opportunities for parents to examine their role in helping to advance their children's learning and promote their self-esteem.

To offer formal opportunities within the school experience for personal and social development.

To support school-wide and extracurricular activities which provide opportunities for all students to experience success.

The School Committee will request annually from the Superintendent a plan for the advancement of this goal and an evaluation of past actions to address the goal.

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