

# **Core Beliefs of the North White School Corporation**

The North White School Corporation is guided by the following set of common beliefs and values that help ensure our success. There are indeed many people who have a stake in the success of our schools. These stakeholders include not only the Corporation's Board of Trustees, the Superintendent, the administration, and all of the teachers and staff, but also all of our students, and their parents / guardians, as well as all of the other members of our communities.

*The Core Beliefs of the North White School Corporation are as follows:*

## **High Expectations:**

We are committed to promoting excellence within ourselves, our students, our students' parents and guardians, and others within our community. We, therefore, will establish an environment of high expectations in which each person is expected to give his or her best effort in all pursuits. We will encourage improvement, celebrate success, and never settle for less than our best.

## **Continuous Improvement:**

As we strive to meet our high expectations, we also recognize that we cannot be solely satisfied with past successes and "rest on our laurels." As such, we must always be looking to improve both now and into the future. Therefore, we must continually evaluate our goals, adjusting them as necessary, and seek out ways to better ourselves and our community.

## **Data Driven Decisions:**

We will use any available pertinent data when making decisions relative to the Corporation. Data will be used to set our goals, to guide our instruction, to select the programs we use, and to establish our expectations for the Corporation, etc. Both short- and long-term data will be collected (but not over-collected) in relation to individuals, classes, grade levels, building levels, and Corporation-wide. Furthermore, before selecting and implementing any new program or strategy within the Corporation, it will be evaluated as to how it may affect future data.

## **Teamwork / Shared Leadership:**

We recognize that our success is affected by the actions of many people and groups. In fact, all stakeholders (as mentioned above) both influence our success and are affected by our success. Therefore, in making decisions, we will make a concerted effort to seek input from all groups involved. Such actions will foster a cooperative environment, where we all function as a team, having shared leadership and responsibility to help ensure our success.

## **Accountability / Responsibility:**

To achieve our goals, each stakeholder in the Corporation must first understand what his or her roles and responsibilities are. Such roles and responsibilities should be clearly communicated, as necessary, and each stakeholder will be held accountable for efficiently and effectively fulfilling those roles and responsibilities. Furthermore, each person should understand that one's negligence to fulfill his or her responsibilities

actually affects others, having negative consequences for the entire group. Consequently, when decisions are made (see above), all stakeholders should strive to comply with those decisions for the benefit of the entire group, giving those strategies a fair, honest chance to succeed. Stakeholders will track the success of strategies that have been implemented, and the results observed will be shared as appropriate.

### **Social Responsibility:**

Since all members in our community play a role in its success, we have the goal of helping every stakeholder in Corporation recognize and understand the social responsibility that each of us has. Therefore, we will assist students in developing habits and behaviors that will help them to see the importance of helping others and making positive contributions to the community. Such actions can help students to develop a better sense of self, to recognize their individual worth in the world community, and thus to become effective, successful, productive members of society.

### **Alignment:**

We are committed to the alignment of our Corporation's programs and resources across all levels, and this commitment will be clearly communicated to and shared with all stakeholders. The Corporation's curriculum will be fully aligned with the Indiana Academic Standards for each grade level, subject area, and individual course. To ensure that there are no gaps in the curriculum taught, our curriculum will be vertically aligned from one school year to the next. The curriculum will also be horizontally aligned so that all common courses focus on the same materials and content, even when taught by different teachers. Students' mastery of these standards will be assessed via common quarterly assessments, and remediation will be provided for students who do not initially master the core standards.

### **Learning-Centered Education:**

Students, parents, and the community view our schools as a learning-centered community. We should establish a clear understanding of the importance and implications of learning as a life-long skill. Learning-centered education should allow us to open our doors not only to our students but also to their families, and also to make resources and learning opportunities available to all. We must always put learning first no matter what challenges we face.