

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

We are united behind the original ideals of the charter school contract.

We embrace our diverse communities, which include immigrants, people of color, children with disabilities, the homeless, English language learners, people of all faiths, and the LGBTQ community. We aspire to be great community schools of choice for the families we serve.

Equity

- We reaffirm that charter schools are public schools. All public schools should receive equitable funding.
- We are committed to transparency in our practices and accountability to our students, parents, government authorizers, and the public at-large.
- As public institutions, our charter schools are open, welcoming, and responsive to our many stakeholders.

Autonomy and Accountability

- Autonomy in exchange for accountability is the bedrock principle of charter schools.
- Real accountability must be rooted in the development of the whole child and the needs of society to improve our democracy and cultivate citizens who can solve the intractable problems of our time.
- The work we do at our schools is for the greater good. We guard against any practice that subordinates the work we do to personal or corporate profit.

Collaboration

- Because charter schools were created as laboratories of innovation, we seek out opportunities for collaboration among district, charter, and independent schools.
- We seek out opportunities to learn from and exchange ideas with our colleagues.
- Our workplaces are collaborative, not adversarial. We invest in our teachers so that they can invest in us.

Diversity

- We commit to serving students who reflect our communities and neighborhoods, particularly students with the greatest educational needs.
- We actively recruit, retain and serve the highest-need students, such as students with disabilities, English language learners, and students with challenging life circumstances.
- We are determined to educate all of our students to the best of our ability, every day.

Innovation

- Our independence is a public trust. Autonomy provides the freedom to innovate and differentiate.
- We have an obligation to research, develop and implement new ideas, practices and strategies.
- School innovation is reinforced by use of multiple measures for evaluation. We must learn how to measure what is truly important and germane to the mission of our schools.
- We share these practices, serving as a laboratory for all other public schools.

Respect for Teachers

- We rely on a professional and compassionate teaching staff to model the attitudes we expect in our students. Our schools provide innovative opportunities that encourage young teachers to excel at their craft and become great educators.
- Personnel evaluations and all our employment practices are fair and transparent.

Governance & Community

- Strong independent boards and an engaged community are essential to school governance and student success.
- Boards must be fully and demonstrably independent from service providers and must have robust process for community input.
- Decision-making involves feedback from our students, families and the community at large.

Quality

- All students have the right to a high-quality education.
- Our parents, students, and caregivers choose our schools and trust that we will provide the best possible education.
- We support their right to make that choice and will do everything in our power to fulfill our responsibilities.

WE SUBSCRIBE TO AND SUPPORT THESE PRINCIPLES