

**Philosophy Statement**

The local Board of Education is an arm of the state government established by the legislature. It is held responsible for direction of the public schools and the acquisition and expenditure of funds related thereto. Within the limit set by the Education Code, the Board establishes policies and delegates administrative responsibility to the Superintendent of Schools. The Lodi Unified School District Board of Education believes that:

1. Schools belong to the community, and the community has the right to be kept informed of what is happening in its schools. The Districts' information policy shall be based on honesty, openness and fairness.
2. Its basic responsibility is to provide a school system that represents a synthesis of the best community and professional views.
3. Such a synthesis results in schools that:
  - a. Inspire all students to achieve the highest possible competence in the skills, understandings and appreciations leading to effective self-directing adulthood.
  - b. Reinforce the values of our democratic society through the teaching of citizenship and provide an environment conducive to ethical behavior.
  - c. Provide all students with the experiences and guidance leading towards sound vocational choices.
4. Citizens of the Lodi Unified School District desire to support and maintain a quality school system. This requires that the Board:
  - a. Determine the general nature of the educational program including the scope of services and the number and type of schools.
  - b. Provide for a program of public information that will develop community understanding and support.
  - c. Obtain sufficient funds for the recruitment and retention of the best available staff members, the construction of adequate physical facilities, the maintenance of reasonably sized classes, and all other services necessary to support a quality education program.
  - d. Secure and support the kind of administrative leadership which produces high staff morale and performance.

Policy

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