

# Salida School District

## 2018 Community Educational Value Statements

**Objective:** We believe in providing educational opportunities for all students. We understand that each student has a different path to success and that each phase of education requires a different approach to learning. We aim to provide foundational skills/knowledge, opportunities to learn and to apply lessons to real life. District should provide inspiration and encouragement for students to create their own unique path to success..

**Wellness (Social & Emotional)** – We believe in healthy individuals and a healthy community. We provide opportunities for wellness through exposure to learning, exploration, and safe hands-on experiences. We encourage healthy choices, around:

- Self-esteem and social emotional learning
- Mental health learning and support
- Physical health: fitness, nutrition
- Relationships: empathy and respect

### Feedback we are hearing -

- Important for balance between academic + building empathy
- Foundational for other values
- Tied to safety + Security (preventative)
- Honor diversity in learning styles
- Important life skill to learn during school versus later
- Challenge is values from home to school maybe different, and accessibility outside of school.
- Important for adaptability in our changing world (don't lose the value of relationships with technology)
- Fundamentals of relationship building are changing for these kids
- People need to be self-awareness to build a strong foundation for success
- Needs to be address explicitly earlier to learn now vs. breaking bad habits in adulthood.
- Resilience + growth mindset = preventative
- Whole-child is important, can't just address academics.
- Awareness and actions...what to do with knowledge
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade is good transitional time for peer relationships; Natural stage of creating good habits
- Difficult to learn if not well (in all areas)
- Community suffers when just a few kids are not getting needs met.
- School is more often the safest place for children (consistent and nurturing)
- Important to know every kid
- The skills are critical for survival, not just learning.
- Effective, efficient skills need to be explicitly taught.
- Life skill transfers to future
- Building resiliency and positive culture or peer groups
- Social media has raised the stakes for addressing these needs.
- Need more staff, psychotherapy, a plan when a few kids absorb resources, others go unaddressed.
- Challenges:
  - Are teachers prepared for this?
  - How much can we ask of teachers
  - Who supports the supporters?
  - What needs more emphasis Academics or SEL

**Safety and Security** – We believe in keeping our students and staff safe physically, environmentally, and emotionally. This is an evolving process & practice that stays at the center of all we do. Community, District, Staff & Students must continuously work together to establish and maintain a safe and secure learning environment. What is in the best interest of our students and staff and community? How do we ensure this together?

### Feedback we are hearing –

- Physical Building security and management of visitors
- Communication on how we continue to improve

- No knee-jerk reaction be thoughtful with process
- Connected to Wellness Value at multiple levels
- Provide support for staff.

**Academics (Thinking Skills) & Extracurricular activities** – We believe in learning through understanding, practicing, experiencing, evolving and preparation.

- Student & Staff continuous learning
- Set high expectations for growth/improvement
- Critical thinking and problem solving, independent thinking
- Opportunities in and out of the classroom
- Experience learning thru multiple venues: class, sports, arts, cultures

**Feedback we are hearing –**

- It's why we are here!
- Should be two topics... 1) extracurricular 2) academics
- Critical thinking; independent thinking
- Comparable rigor with national benchmarks
- Applicable to work force
- Well-rounded
- Special education
- Pursue the what & why of students learning
- Core academics are a priority (3 R'S)
- Internships, global understanding
- Investment in resources for teachers
- Community involvement
- Extracurricular investment
- Invest in instructional coaching
- Invest in teacher with ongoing training
- Recruitment of best talent
- PLC – professional learning center
- Extracurricular/ academics provide opportunities for all
- Increase diversity of clubs, programs, extra-curricular
- VoTech/CTE/Real-world
- Develop soft skills
- Explore options for alternative educations
- Learning for understanding not memorization
- Teach time management and how to do homework
- Acknowledge kids leaning differently; embrace it and support it.
- Instill love of learning
- Develop strength/resourcefulness
- Maintain high expectations and accountability
- Don't teach to the test.

**Life preparation** – We believe that success is an individual endeavor supported by the educational process and Community environment. Success for every individual is different. Understanding talents, interests, and objectives are a part of building success. Success comes one step at a time: preschool prepares success for kindergarten, which prepares for success in elementary years, leading to success in middle school years, and continuing in high school to graduation. Preparing each student for continued success choices through work, college, careers, and citizenship.

- Study habits, organizational skills
- Life skills – from handshakes to balancing check books, to voting to relationships at work and in the Community
- Applying classroom lessons to real life with successful outcomes

**Feedback we are hearing –**

- Independent thinking is required to do any of the things listed
- Topic encompasses other categories
- Balance beyond academic success that carries us into adulthood

- Gaps exist in:
  - Vocational (beyond construction, Home Ec, Metals, etc.)
  - Facilitated community school partnerships
  - Financial Planning (math and finance)
  - Re-life projects (Spartan Heights)
- Direct instruction of study habits.
- Instead of elective...require it.
- Common culture may affect retention of our youth in community as adults
- LES strengths – gardening, self-regulation needs
- Connect homework to life skills
- The Crest Academy Strengths = Market Night.
- Similar to Wellness + Thinking skills, more real life/life beyond School walls
- “more than a test score”, what do you do with what you’ve learned?
- Academic + social emotional knowledge is interconnected.
- Job interview practice
- Important in a small town to be resilient in a bigger world
- Consider generational changes – different experiences – technology
- Need more learning style knowledge study habits, multiple intelligences, self-reflection, acceptance of others, international acceptance.
- Desires integrated into every grade
  - Life skills
  - Hands on vocational skills
  - How to be civil in a debate
  - Internships
  - Job shadows
  - produce flexible adaptable humans
  - Self-motivated learning
  - Expanded counseling team
- Transparent pathways beyond college
- Integrated “home ec” skills into other classes – figure out connection with standards
- Positive = AmeriTowne
- “Talents + interest” exposed through specials and LES

**Technology** – We believe that technology is a tool for learning; not a replacement for relationships. We do our best to create a balance between understanding how technology brings new levels of learning into our experience; while helping students learn the benefits and risks of this powerful tool.

**Feedback we are hearing –**

- Not going away – critical to future life; it’s about the ability to evolve with technology.
- Significant to any start-up business; pedagogy influences technology and vice versa.
- Technology advances learning – integral to the future
- Software’s connection to technology
- How does technology individualize learning and the impact on facilities?
- STEM & Tech thinking develops rational thought > connection between math and tech. is essential
- VoTech’s importance doesn’t negate need on Technology.
- Board should capture how technology can empower individualism.
- No escaping, future workplace will require it.
- Not necessary a different need to protect; don’t operate out of fear.
- The capacity of technology need to be utilized in the classroom.
- Represents an increase in efficiency/Individualism
- Tech can mean a loss of control> not always dependent.
- Ubiquitous—requires wisdom ot know how to use it (safely and productively)
- Guidelines almost more important than tech itself; even corporations recognize the risks.
- Age appropriate and development relationship with technology
- We live in a world of technology, its unavoidable; kids must have access.
- Board should....
  - capture how technology can empower individualism.

- Add appropriate use definition
- Add capacity; building for the future.

**Learning Environment (Facilities)** – We believe in creating and maintaining safe, healthy, inspiring spaces that support learning.

- Maintain small classroom sizes
- Anticipating growth and changes in educational processes & practices: additions, new properties/buildings, technology; envisioning new ways to learn
- Being active and forward thinking based on the needs and expectations of our community & world.

**Feedback we are hearing –**

- Quality as related to classroom instruction and meeting the needs of kids
- How many kids/driven by support
- Correlation between environment + learning (recruitment, safe and healthy)
- Compromise on size not number of teachers.
- As an educator, plan for growth while still taking care of kids.
- Meet kids individual needs- they come with more
- Student-Centered = Academic + Social development
- Work to refined partnerships, specific to access and separation of vehicles and people.
- Forever negligent in providing athletic facilities
- Small classes do better
- Changing educational practices specific to technology diversity of offerings
- Global Academies
- Applied Learning > Skilled Labor
- Growth of houses vs growth of student population
- Sustainability of growth in community (primary vs secondary homes
- Diversity of population
- Priority is student teacher ration vs class size
- Increased demands on kids
- More manipulatives
- Define common practices toward technology
- Exposure to technology in classroom
- Impact of increase of secondary housing on kids
- ECC facility is busting at the seams.

Society is different, otherwise, “just be the same”. Technology allows kids to control and aspects of society.

New properties + buildings to keep people here. Need to think BIG picture

Need to address ECCS (take care of daycare)

Will the Salida population be families or...?

District need to buy land now in Poncha Springs for the next 10 years, possible P-5/8 School

Poncha Springs becoming their own community.

People are looking for alternates

Crest/ Horizon, alternate facility that combines Boys + Girls Club

**Financial Sustainability** – We believe in a dynamic and thorough budgeting process: broad and on-going conversations about needs and priorities. Continued transparency throughout the district and Community to engender support and anticipation for continued financial stability. Aligning resources to goals and priorities. Taking a long-term view. A balance between spending and financial security while. doing the most we can with what we have. Ensuring a secure future for our district, our students, teachers & families.

**Feedback we are hearing –**

- Financial Sustainability is critical for ongoing success of the District
- Focus on Success of Pk-12 student for larger school size
- The plan need to consider the sunset of past bonds in planning for district growth
- Protect taxpayer trust in District
- Financial Stability is a necessity for all other values
- Need to focus not only on suitability but sustainability
- If we don't have stability we cannot sustain
- School Board has been fiscally conservative; appreciated by the community and perceived as a key factor to the successful position of today.
- Consider using existing space currently built to support additional enrollment in lieu of building new.....need to think outside the box.
- Need to think about a shared community investment in next solution.