

GOALS OF EDUCATION

The goals of Dansville education are grouped into three principal areas which should guide efforts to perfect Dansville's education system. These areas are: (1) citizenship and morality which sets out the criteria which must be met in developing mature and responsible citizens; (2) democracy and equal opportunity which deals with conditions necessary for a successful process of school operation; and (3) student learning which specifies desired outcomes for each person who is a product of our educational system. Within each of these broad areas specified goals are described in order to provide optimum opportunity for success for all students.

I.

CITIZENSHIP AND MORALITY

Dansville education must create an educational environment, which fosters the development of mature and responsible citizens. (The Constitution of the State of Michigan reads: Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.) Three goals have been identified in this area:

Goal 1 Morality

Dansville education must assure the development of youth as citizens who have self respect, respect for others, and respect for the law.

Goal 2 Citizenship and Social Responsibility

Dansville education must assure the development of a mature and responsible citizen with the full sense of social awareness and moral and ethical values needed in a heterogeneous society. It must encourage critical but constructive thinking and responsible involvement, with consideration for the rights of all, in the resolution of the problems of our society. It must create within the school system an atmosphere of social justice, responsibility, and equality, which will enable students to carry a positive and constructive attitude about human differences and similarities into their working or community relationships in later life. The schools should provide various learning experiences involving students from different racial, religious, economic, and ethnic groups; accordingly, Dansville education should move toward integrated schools which provide an optimum environment for quality education.

Goal 3 Rights and Responsibilities of Students

Dansville education must recognize and protect the individual and legal rights of students as people and as citizens, regardless of race, religion, or economic status. Together with these rights students must accept responsibilities and disciplines essential to our society. Implicit in this goal is the recognition of the corresponding rights of parents, teachers, and other participants in the educational process.

II.

DEMOCRACY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Dansville education must support and advance the principles of democracy by recognizing the worth of every individual and by respecting each person's right to equal educational opportunity. Six goals have been identified in this area.

Goal 1 Equality of Educational Opportunity

Dansville education must ensure that its processes and activities are so structured as to provide equality of educational opportunity for all and to assure that there is no institutionalized oppression of any group, such as racism where it exists. It must also provide for an educational environment conducive to learning. The system must assure that all aspects of the school program including such matters as educational goals, organization of schools, courses, instructional materials, activities, treatment of students, attitudes, and students and community representation give full cognizance and proper weight to the contributions and participation of all groups within its structure. The school climate should accommodate the diverse values of our society and make constructive use of these values for the betterment of society.

Goal 2 Education of the Non English Speaking Person

Dansville education must recognize and respect the need for special academic and administrative measures in schools serving students whose native tongue is one other than English. These students should be encouraged and assisted to develop their skills in their native language while they are acquiring proficiency in English. For example, the methodologies of foreign language instruction might be used to enable these students to gain the required fluency. Where there is a substantial population of non English speaking students, bilingual programs should be provided in order that the students may develop their bilingual skills and enhance their educational experience rather than be forced into the position of instructional techniques which facilitate a student's educational development regardless of his out of school experience with non standard English.

Goal 3 Education of the Exceptional Person

Dansville education must recognize and provide for the special educational needs of exceptional persons. This recognition must extend to those who are academically talented and to those who are considered physically, mentally, or emotionally handicapped.

Regarding the handicapped, Dansville education must further assure that its procedures concerning the testing and evaluation of children tentatively identified as being mentally or emotionally handicapped do not unduly penalize minority or low socioeconomic status children by precipitous referral and placement into special classes.

Every effort must be made to achieve the maximum progress possible for exceptional individuals by facilitating their movement into and/or out of special classes.

Goal 4 Allocation of Financial Resources

Dansville education must ensure that the availability and quality of publicly financed education be maintained at acceptable levels in all communities. The inability of local communities to muster sufficient resources to meet their needs must not be allowed to

deprive individuals of quality education.

Goal 5 Parental Participation

Dansville education must develop effective means for involving parents in the educational development of their children and encouraging them to meet their responsibilities in this regard.

Goal 6 Community Participation

Dansville education must develop effective means for utilizing community resources and making these resources available to the community.

III.

Student Learning

Dansville education must help each individual acquire a positive attitude toward school and the learning process so that, as a result of his educational experience, he is able to achieve optimum personal growth, to progress in a worthwhile and rewarding manner in the career of his choice, and to render valuable service to society. Thirteen goals have been identified in this area:

Goal 1 Basic Skills

Dansville education must assure the acquisition of basic communication, computation, and inquiry skills to the fullest extent possible for each student. These basis skills fall into four broad categories: (1) the ability to comprehend ideas through reading and listening; (2) the ability to communicate ideas through writing and speaking; (3) the ability to handle mathematical operations and (4) the ability to apply rational intellectual processes to the identification, consideration and solution of problems. Although the level of performance that can reasonably be expected in each of these areas will vary from person to person, the level of expectation of each individual must be accurately assessed. Continual evaluation of his aptitudes, abilities, and needs must be undertaken. Every effort must be made to afford each individual the opportunity for mastery which he needs to pursue his chosen goals, to the point of program entrance and beyond.

Goal 2 Preparation for a Changing Society

Dansville education must encourage and prepare the individual to become responsive to the needs created and opportunities afforded by an ever changing social, economic, and political environment both here and throughout the world. An appreciation of the possibilities for continuing self development, especially in light of increasing educational and leisure time opportunities, will encourage him to pursue his chosen goals to the limits of his capabilities under such changing conditions.

Goal 3 Career Preparation

Dansville education must provide to each individual the opportunity to select and prepare for a career of his choice consistent to the optimum degree with his capabilities, aptitudes, and desires, and the needs of society. Toward this end, he should be afforded, on a progressive basis, the necessary evaluation of his progress and aptitudes, together with effective counseling regarding alternatives available, the steps necessary to realize each of these alternatives, and the possible consequences of his choice. In addition, each individual should be exposed as early and as fully as possible, to the adult working world and to such adult

values as will enable more thoughtful and meaningful decisions as to career choice and preparation.

Goal 4 Creative, Constructive, and Critical Thinking

Dansville education must foster the development of the skills of creative, constructive and critical thinking to enable the individual to deal effectively with situations and problems which are new to his experience in ways which encourage him to think and act in an independent, self fulfilling, and responsible manner.

Goal 5 Sciences, Arts, and Humanities

Dansville education must provide on a continuing basis, to each individual, opportunity and encouragement to gain knowledge and experience in the area of the natural sciences, the social sciences, the humanities, and the creative and fine arts so that his personal values and approach to living may be enriched by these experiences.

Goal 6 Physical and Mental Well Being

Dansville education must promote the acquisition of good health and safety habits and an understanding of the conditions necessary for physical and mental well being.

Goal 7 Self worth

Dansville education must respond to each person's need to develop a positive self image within the context of his own heritage and within the larger context of the total society. The development of a positive self image will enhance the individual's ability to fruitfully determine, understand, and examine his own capacities, interests, and goals in terms of the needs of society.

Goal 8 Social skills and Understanding

Dansville education must provide for each individual an understanding of the value system, cultures, customs, and histories of his own heritage as well as of others. Each student must learn to value human differences, understand and act responsibly upon current social issues, participate in society and government while seeking to improve them, and seek a society where every person has equal access to the lawful goals he seeks regardless of his background or group membership. Each person must learn to develop and maintain effective interpersonal relationships.

Goal 9 Occupational skills

Dansville education must provide for the development of the individual's marketable skills so that a student is assisted in the achievement of his career goals by adequate preparation in areas which require competence in occupational skills.

Goal 10 Preparation for Family Life

Dansville education must provide an atmosphere in which each individual will grow in his understanding of and responsiveness to the needs and responsibilities inherent in family life. Joint efforts must be made by school, parents, and community to bring together the human resources necessary in this endeavor.

Goal 11 - Environment Quality

Dansville education must develop within each individual the knowledge and respect necessary for the appreciation, maintenance, protection, and improvement of physical environment.

Goal 12 - Economics Understanding

Dansville education must provide that every student will gain a critical understanding of his role as a producer and consumer of goods and services, and of the principles involved in the production of goods and services.

Goal 13 Continuing Education

Dansville education must promote an eagerness for learning which encourages every individual to take advantage of the educational opportunities available beyond the formal schooling process.