

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

PHILOSOPHY

The Board of Education ("Board") defines Environmental Sustainability as practices that minimize energy and water consumption, maximize waste diversion, and reduce the school district's carbon footprint. It also includes efforts to mitigate climate related risks to school infrastructure and promote environmental stewardship. These efforts align with the principles of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle to foster a culture of conservation.

Environmental sustainability meets present needs without compromising future generations. Its success relies on collaboration among Trustees, district leaders, administrators, teachers, support staff, parents, guardians, and students.

The Board supports initiatives that reduce operational costs, enhance environmental stewardship and support student achievement while conserving energy and natural resources and exercising sound financial management. As part of this commitment, the Board actively supports the reduction of fossil fuel use and the transition to cleaner, renewable energy sources.

AUTHORITY

The Board assigns responsibility for implementing this policy to the Superintendent of Schools and the Secretary Treasurer and authorizes them to establish procedures to guide its implementation.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Board supports implementation of this policy through the following guiding principles:

1. Strategic Resource Management

- Assessing baseline performance, setting goals, and creating an environmental sustainability plan.
- Monitoring and continuously improving the plan within available financial resources.

2. Educational Integration

- Supporting programs that build student skills, knowledge, and attitudes for a sustainability mindset, ensuring science-based education on climate change and solutions.
- Encouraging awareness of sustainability practices among students and staff.

3. Operational Commitment

- Incorporating environmental and ethical considerations into district operations and decisions.
- Selecting equipment and systems aligned with sustainability goals and utility incentives.
- Engaging vendors to align with the district's sustainability objectives.

4. Communication and Engagement

- Sharing initiatives and consulting with partner groups on new projects, where appropriate.
- Promoting awareness of energy use, waste reduction, and material consumption among all stakeholders.

5. Reporting

- Reporting annual updates on the implementation of the environmental sustainability plan and progress towards guiding principles.
- Highlighting key outcomes, measurable progress, and areas for improvement.

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