

Vision and Purpose For Alva Public Schools

The Board in an effort to ensure education opportunity to every child within the Alva Independent School District presents and endorses this document as one of many tools in the communities' effort to propel Alva's educational system to be the best in the State of Oklahoma. This document will lead the board's actions and provide direction to the superintendent. The Alva School Board, being elected representatives of the patrons of the district, will give upmost diligence to maintain and uphold the expectations in this document. This document is intended to reflect the expectations of the people the board represents. By documenting the vision and purpose the board hopes to provide an avenue to build community support, to develop partnerships, and to generate action.

Vision

“Alva Goldbugs Strive for Excellence”

The mission statement above describes the philosophy and drive of the board, administrators, teachers, and staff of the Alva Independent School System. The statement “strive for excellence” means to devote serious effort or energy to create student of distinction. It is the mission of Alva Public Schools to empower all students to think critically, to make informed decisions, to be continual learners, to value learning, and to be productive members of a democratic society.

G.O.L.D.B.U.G.S.

Expected Standards

The following standards describe behaviors that promote student growth and achievement:

Goldbug Excellence First – Every thought, decision and action is made with the best interests of the students of Alva Public Schools in mind. This standard is applied to all aspects of professional and personal life that could possibly influence, set an example, or inspire a student.

Open Lines of Communication – The Alva Independent School District belongs in every sense to the people of the district; therefore, the schools are only as strong as the intelligent and informed support of the people of the community. The support of the people must be based upon their knowledge, understanding, and participation in the aims and efforts of the public schools. The board affirms and declares its design and intent:

- To keep the citizens of the district involved in developing policies, programs, and planning of the school system.
- To actively solicit the advice and counsel of the patrons.
- To consider all opinions and constructive feedback received.

Life Long Learning – You can teach a student a lesson for a day; but if you can teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives – Clay Bedford. The district envisions a school system in which the Board, administration, faculty, and staff will:

- Establish a foundation where all students acquire knowledge and value the process of learning;
- Actively involve and support all students in meaningful learning;
- Have high academic, social, and moral expectations for all students;
- Work collaboratively with the students, staff, parents, and community.
- Create an environment where students learn by doing

Develop Productive Members of Society – It is imperative to the existence of rural Oklahoma to have productive members of society that understand the interdependence and diverse nature of the world and their related responsibility. Activities will provide individuals with opportunities to become aware of their own strengths and weaknesses and provide avenues for different learning styles, intelligences, and cultural heritages.

Be Willing to Go the Extra Mile – “There are no traffic jams along the extra mile – Roger Staubach”. Students, parents and patrons are owners of the public schools and deserve to be treated with the respect and dignity that you would like to receive. Going the extra mile means providing the best experience possible. In order to go the extra mile you must:

- Make it easy for individuals to access the school representative they want to talk to.
- Actively listen to concerns and suggestions of all individuals. If you truly understand the problem, you can make better decisions and communicate your position in a productive way.
- If a person takes the time to communicate to you, the matter is important and deserves and demands your attention.
- Always be helpful, courteous, and knowledgeable. If you don't know the answer, find someone that does.
- Take action to fix the problem, to find a mutually accepted solution, or to help the person understand why no further actions are possible

Usual is Not Excellent – “The problems that exist in the world today cannot be solved by the same level of thinking that created them” – Albert Einstein. To become excellent one must continue to grow, try new things, and never become complacent. There must always be a concerted effort to be better next year than levels achieved this year. New and innovative ideas are encouraged to engage the use of technology, different learning styles, and staff development to increase student's learning on a year to year basis.

Good First Impression – Personal appearance and the physical appearance of the schools are very important forms of nonverbal communication that patrons, visiting schools, and community visitors experience long before a single word is spoken by school representatives. Your personal appearance should reflect your level of responsibility, and the facilities should reflect the level of education being provided. Maintaining first class facilities is the responsibility of the entire community.

Stay Above Reproach – All written, visual, and verbal communications must reflect dignity and the moral values expected by the patrons. Examples of poor judgment will end up on the front page of the paper, television, You Tube, Facebook, Twitter, or another website for the world to see and comment on.

Assessment/Accountability

Student Progress Matrix Report due at board meeting September, February, June

Financial Matrix Report due at every board meeting

Alva Partners for Progress Report due quarterly

Alignment

Students need to receive a progressive seamless education throughout elementary and middle school to prepare students for the rigorous educational standards of high school. Educational standards will be aligned on a class by class basis beginning from a baseline set at the end of their first grade year to a minimum level to be achieved by the end of their eighth grade year. This class alignment plan will be reviewed every year to track progress, set goals, and re-align the plan. The Aurora Learning Community Association web application will be used to track individual progress within the alignment plan.

Culture

Throughout history, groups of dedicated people working toward a common goal have achieved miraculous feats. The common traits shared by these individuals include:

- Impeccable leaders that lead by being work horses instead of show horses, display utmost integrity, and communicate their vision to inspire the people they lead.
- Organizational structure built upon the concept of having the right people on the bus in the right seats.
- Desire and capability to face the brutal facts without laying individual blame to foster constant improvement.
- Every individual seeing the value in planning and preparation, training, relationship building, and developing people, and pulling on the same rope for the overall good of the organization

A group of people following and possessing the traits above are following the roadmap to excellence.

Partnerships

Collaboration with the following partners is vital to the success of the district:

Northwest Technology Center

Northwestern Oklahoma State University

Alva Parent Teacher Organization

Education 102

Alva Education Foundation