

## **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT: BELIEF, VISION, MISSION**

The Washington Center staff has traditionally shared a vision that sets us apart from other district schools. Our School Improvement Committee (SIC) supports the staff's commitment to provide the Washington Center students a quality, functional educational experience. We are proud of our school's uniqueness and our staff's mission to create a nurturing, instructional environment for our very special students. The staff serving these students is qualified and strives to meet the student's individual needs: emotional, social, physical and instructional.

### **Values and Beliefs**

Though our students have severe handicaps, they can learn and we expect them to achieve. Our motto is "Those you think cannot...Can!" Values and beliefs are the core of who we are, what we do, and how we think and feel. Our values and beliefs reflect our belief in that our students can achieve. Test scores are not the only measure of achievement. We look for gains in all areas and in small steps. Recently, the staff was given opportunities to have input as to their perceptions of our school's purpose in the form of student learner standards:

We believe the student will...

- Participate in communication of basic wants and needs.
- Participate in modified academic instruction.
- Perform the basic activities of daily living.
- Demonstrate socially acceptable behaviors
- Demonstrate skills needed to participate in family and community activities.
- Utilize functional technology.

### **Purpose**

Purpose is the aim of the organization; the reason for existence. Purpose is very important for creating the mission and the vision.

Washington Center was established to serve students with severe mental and physical disabilities. All of our students have special needs resulting in a very unique school. The purpose of Washington Center is to provide students the education and training that will enable them to live as functionally as possible

and to enjoy learning and living. Addressing this goal is a great responsibility. The task is sometimes difficult, but the rewards and satisfaction can be tremendous.

## **Mission**

A mission is a brief, clear and compelling statement that serves to unify an organization's efforts. An effective mission statement must stretch and challenge the organization, yet be achievable. It is tangible, value-driven, energizing, highly focused, and moves the organization forward. A mission has a finish line for its achievement and is proactive. A mission should walk the boundary between the possible and impossible.

The mission of Washington Center is to provide opportunities for students to explore and develop potential for independent functioning and community involvement by addressing students' individual needs. This statement provides a focus with high standards for our students, educational program and staff. With the target of enriching student's lives, we realistically reach for revealing student potential for quality of life while supporting their fundamental needs. We do not see the disabilities, but rather focus on the abilities.



*Washington Center students participate in Community Based Instruction for learning to live in their environment.*

## **Shared Vision**

A vision is a specific description of what it will be like when the mission is achieved. A vision is a mental image. Our staff agrees that our mutually derived

educational goals are inspired by our educational drive toward achieving our vision. Our mission and purpose inspired our educational beliefs. In March 2007, our staff was given a questionnaire for input as to their educational beliefs and reviewed annually. As a result, the following are the functional curriculum, assessment, personnel and environmental standards that support effective learning for Washington Center students:

#### *Functional Curriculum*

- Individualize instruction for every student according to their individual needs as reflected in the Individualized Educational Plans (IEP's).
- Provide a variety of experiences for every student, including Community Based Instruction and multi-sensory environments.
- Teach functional and daily living skills so our students will be as independent as possible.
- Provide our students with age appropriate real life experiences to insure dignity and exposure to opportunities.
- Teach leisure time skills and appropriate social behaviors necessary for disabled persons to be accepted in public situations.
- Present academic instruction in modified educational standards.

#### *Quality Personnel*

- Staff should be trained in technology use for operation of student instructional materials.
- Staff needs behavioral intervention skills for professional management of student behaviors.
- Continue the faculty sharing sessions and Para-professional meeting workshops throughout the year to promote expanded instruction.
- Provide augmentative communication training for instructors to encourage and enhance student communication skills.
- Offer training for multiple disabilities instructional strategies necessary to meet the needs of our expanding, complex student population.
- Offer training in Hispanic communication.
- Provide guidance and resources in creating appropriate task analyzed objectives to meet district and state criteria in developing appropriate IEP's.
- Continue support in the form of training and resources for instructional strategies in educational state standards.

### *Assessment*

- Develop informational assessment methods linked to IEP objectives and student functional levels.
- Analyze SC-Alt score results to determine the effectiveness of standards-based instruction.
- Use FBA results as directives in planning appropriate and effective intervention strategies.

### *Environment*

- Encourage parent involvement in each student's education as necessary for success.
- Mesh Community Based Instruction with school curriculum to promote the student's ability to function in public situations.
- Provide sensory stimulating curriculum to motivate and encourage student participation.
- Plan collaboration with related service providers and classroom teachers to develop effective instruction and goals.
- Offer a safe, instructionally time efficient environment with constant supervision.
- Maintain a positive atmosphere evidencing teamwork school-wide.