

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Topeka Public Schools is to:

**Engage students in the highest quality of learning;
Prepare students for responsible, productive citizenship;
Inspire excellence for a lifetime.**

Our vision is that Topeka Public Schools will be recognized nationally for its rigorous curriculum, academic excellence, and extracurricular achievement. Strengthened by diversity, our district will foster partnerships of staff, families, and the community to develop students' educational, physical, and social-emotional well-being.

Topeka Public Schools adopts the following learning principles, which provide a research-based and conceptual foundation for how people learn, to consistently guide all TPS staff in their instructional and other decisions:

- Learning Principle 1:** Learning is an active process in which learners use sensory input to construct meaning.
- Learning Principle 2:** Learners link new information with prior knowledge and experiences in meaningful ways.
- Learning Principle 3:** Learning requires the use of various forms of language (e.g., words, symbols, numbers, and images) to capture and develop thinking.
- Learning Principle 4:** Learning is influenced by many contextual factors, including differences in background knowledge; thinking patterns; and cultural, linguistic, and social backgrounds.
- Learning Principle 5:** Learning is influenced by emotional state, social interactions, interpersonal relations, and communication with others.
- Learning Principle 6:** Learners' motivation, both extrinsic and intrinsic, is a key component to ensure engagement and learning.
- Learning Principle 7:** Learners' persistent effort, developmentally appropriate challenges, and instructional support result in rigorous learning.
- Learning Principle 8:** Learners need multiple opportunities over time to practice in supportive, respectful environments.

Learning Principle 9: Learners need regular, specific, and timely feedback with opportunities to use the feedback to maximize learning experiences.

Learning Principle 10: Learners reflect, monitor, and adjust their thinking and reasoning to achieve learning goals (metacognition).