

Scarsdale Board of Education's Statement on Education: Scarsdale Values Educational Excellence and Standards of Excellence

The Scarsdale Board of Education aspires to provide our students with a deep, rich education. **The Scarsdale Education for Tomorrow is what distinguishes a Scarsdale graduate. Our schools** focus on what students know; how they think; and how they act.

- Advancing student knowledge with globally competitive skills and experiences, while fostering a love of learning.
- Empowering students to think critically and creatively, learn independently, and persevere.
- Inspiring students to collaborate, embrace diversity, and make positive contributions locally and globally.

Our schools have long sought to foster teaching of the highest caliber, to offer a challenging and rewarding curriculum, and to assess important learning in a responsible, balanced way. The district has developed systematic local assessments of thinking and problem-solving skills. Not content with today's state or national standardized tests, Scarsdale has also collaborated with a global alliance of schools to benchmark student work in the world's highest-performing nations.

Our educational community is a place of high expectations. We want our schools to realize individual potential, prepare graduates for the global community, and transform lives for the better. Recognizing our interdependence, we recommit ourselves to make our own children's learning deep and meaningful and to advocate for the quality education that all children, everywhere, deserve.

Current national and state policies feature "one-size-fits-all" reforms that do not recognize local needs and undermine local strengths. In assessing students' growth, teachers should consider both test results and other evidence of student learning. Statistics should inform human judgment rather than prevail over it.

Research raises serious concerns about high-stakes testing. Such testing can be unduly costly in terms of student and staff time, energy and money. It can lead to an over-emphasis on imperfect measures whose results have limited meaning. It invites misjudgment of student and teacher performance and causes distortion in curriculum. These consequences lead to flawed educational decisions, and they degrade the quality of learning.

We remain committed to providing our own students with a deep, rich education; assessing and improving teaching and its impact on the quality of student work; treating standardized test scores cautiously and in combination with other information; and letting those scores take care of themselves. The Board of Education and the Scarsdale Public Schools also remain committed to local excellence, but just as much to quality education across our state and nation. All our futures are bound together.

Adopted by Scarsdale Board of Education on January 22, 2013