



Mission & Vision Statements

It is important that all members of the Academy community share a common set of beliefs for why the Academy exists. This common set of beliefs is reflected in an Academy's mission statement. A mission statement provides the framework for an Academy to express what your Academy stands for and the purpose of the Academy's existence.

The purpose of a **mission statement** is to:

- Inform the public of the purpose of the Academy's existence
- Drive every Academy program
- Serve as the foundation for all Academy decisions
- Provide a common focus that will sustain the Academy over a long period of time

To follow are questions, that if answered, will assist your Academy in developing a mission statement that will drive the operations of the school:

- For what purpose was this Academy established?
- What are the anticipated student results?
- What common beliefs and morals are important to all stakeholders?
- What makes the Academy unique in comparison to other area schools?
- What do you want all members of the Academy family to focus upon?

A mission statement should be explicit but concise. This statement should be written in one or two sentences. The statement must be written in the present tense and focus on the here and now.

A mission statement is a "living" set of words that drives the total operations of the Academy on a daily basis. All Academy stakeholders must be constantly reminded of the statement in order for them to remain focused on the purpose of the existence of the Academy.

A mission statement may evolve over time. As time passes, it is important to review the mission statement on an annual basis. Keep in mind that the first mission statement may eventually need to be polished or revised.



To follow are examples of well written mission statements:

- High Expectations Academy assists parents in their role as the primary educators of their children by providing a classical academic education program coupled with innovative programs for character building and community service.
- First Street Academy prepares students for the 21st century by promoting excellence in academics and character development through the use of a time-tested core curriculum and a researched based character education program.
- Unification Academy assists students to adapt and adjust to a diverse society through academic program and out of class activities that promote an understanding that diversity of culture, gender, background, race and ability is a strength to be respected.

Vision statements are what the Academy envisions happening when the Academy fulfills their mission statement. Vision statements reflect the positive things that will occur in the Academy when the mission statement drives the operations of and decisions made by the Academy. A vision statement is a brief description of a desired outcome that directly correlates to the Academy's mission statement.

Vision statements are generally one to three sentences in length. When writing vision statements, think of the word will. What will be the results associated with meeting the mission of the Academy? The following questions are designed to assist Academies as they write vision statements:

- What will students learn?
- How will students act?
- What will students believe?
- What will students be able to accomplish?
- What will be the results of the curriculum used?
- What will be the results of out of class activities?
- How will teachers teach?
- How will teachers communicate with families?
- How will parents be involved in the life of the Academy?
- What impact will the Academy have on the local neighborhood?



The High Expectations Academy mission statement reads as follows:

High Expectations Academy assists parents in their primary role as educators of their children by providing a classical education program coupled with innovative programs for character building and community service.

Examples of vision statements associated with the High Expectations Academy mission statement are as follows:

- Parents will attend regularly scheduled workshops that will provide them with the skills and resources needed to assist their children with the work they bring home from school. Students flourish in their academics as they partner with their parents in completing all school assignments.
- Students will learn to be good citizens who genuinely respect others as well as themselves. Students will develop positive character traits that will assist them in being a positive force in their school and local community.
- Students will develop an understanding of those in need by participating in community service projects such as food and clothing drives, visiting senior citizen centers, and working in the school garden that will provide fresh vegetables for local residents that live in poverty. Learning through service projects will enhance our students' understanding of life in their communities.