

1.1000 GOVERNING PRINCIPLES

Legal Reference: ~~NC G.S. § 115C-238.29~~ *Article 14A of 115C (GS 115C-218)*

Cross Reference: Original charter application

I. MISSION

Falls Lake Academy seeks to create a challenging learning environment while striving to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of our twenty-first century learners to prepare them for citizenship, leadership, and success in a rapidly-changing world. Our school promotes a safe, orderly, caring, and supporting community. Each student's self-esteem is fostered by positive relationships with students and staff. We strive to have our parents, teachers, and community members actively involved in our students' learning.

Falls Lake Academy: a place where education and community combine to celebrate each child's ambitions so that their full potential can **TAKE FLIGHT!**

II. CORE VALUES

We believe:

- Students with twenty-first century skills will become community leaders as well as global leaders.
- Students will excel academically and socially through community outreach.
- Students benefit from challenging experiential and traditional learning experiences.
- We strive for our school to be a community of eager students, dedicated staff, and committed families.

III. PURPOSES

In compliance with the legislated purposes of all North Carolina charter schools (ref. NC G.S. 115C Part 6A, 238.29), the Falls Lake Board of Directors adopts the six general purposes designated in the law as its guiding purposes, around which and according to which all Board operations and directives are organized:

- A. Improvement of student learning
- B. Increase of learning opportunities for all students, with special emphasis on expanded learning experiences for students who are identified as at-risk of academic failure or academically gifted.
- C. Encouragement of the use of different and innovative teaching methods.
- D. Creation of new professional opportunities for teachers, including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning program at the school site.
- E. Provision of expanded choices for parents and students in the types of educational opportunities that are available within the public school system.

F. Accountability of the school for meeting measurable student achievement results, and provision of the school with a method to change from rule-based to performance-based accountability systems.

IV. POLICIES

Policies are the primary means by which the Board expresses its vision for the school and directs the FLA Principal and staff in the day-to-day direction and management of Falls Lake Academy. In formulating specific policies, the Board is guided by governing principles it considers critical to providing an excellent school in which all students can succeed and which fulfill the responsibilities associated with meeting the legislated general purposes of charter schools. These governing principles are referenced frequently in the Board policies:

A. Student success: As its top priority, an excellent school provides opportunities for individual students to succeed and overall student performance to improve.

B. Parental involvement. An excellent school involves parents in decisions regarding their own children, the educational program, and the school.

C. Safe, orderly and inviting environment: An excellent school creates and maintains a safe and orderly environment in which staff and students are focused on and excited about learning.

D. School initiatives: An excellent school initiates improvements to the educational program and services for students and involves staff, parents and students in the school level decision-making processes.

E. Professional development: An excellent school provides continuous professional development and training to help its personnel gain the skills and knowledge needed to meet The North Carolina State Board of Education and its own Board expectations, especially as they relate to improving student performance.

F. Removal of barriers: An excellent school prohibits illegal discrimination and harassment of staff and students, encourages tolerance and respect, and seeks to eliminate or lessen other barriers that may impede a student's ability or opportunity to learn, including economic disadvantages, poor nutrition, ill-health, and lack of transportation.

G. Stewardship of resources: An excellent school conserves financial and environmental resources and operates in an efficient manner.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD

In order to fulfill the purposes listed in Section III and remain true to the governing principles listed in Section IV, the Board recognizes and adopts the following five major responsibilities unto itself:

1. The fulfillment of all legal responsibilities associated with the governance of both the corporation and the school.
2. Continuous promotion and support of the FLA mission.
3. Hiring and supervision of the FLA administrator(s).
4. Establishment of Board policies (see Section IV).
5. Oversight of the school budget and the raising of school funds.