

# POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
LINCOLN PARK

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Commitment to Academic Excellence

## 2132 COMMITMENT TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The Lincoln Park Board of Education is committed to academic excellence for all students. The Board is equally committed to providing opportunities for all students to strive to reach their potential as contributing members of our society whatever their high school and post secondary school career plans. This commitment to excellence is tempered only by the Board's desire to be fiscally responsive to the Lincoln Park taxpayers.

In order to pursue this goal of academic excellence, the Board pledges its support to students, parents, teachers and administrators in the following areas (aligned with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards, 2002):

1. literature-based reading instruction with a solid foundation in phonics;
2. grammar and process writing instruction within a curriculum context;
3. integrated language arts skill development in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing (including media literacy);
4. manipulative-based mathematics instruction emphasizing problem-solving and the use of technology;
5. technologically oriented, hands on science instruction that provides basic scientific inquiry skills and knowledge in the life, physical (including earth science) and environmental studies, and science-specific mathematical applications;
6. social studies instruction that includes New Jersey, United States, and the world in the disciplines history, civics, geography, and economics;
7. world language instruction in Grades 2-8, with Grades 7-8 instruction compatible with the offerings available in the receiving high school;
8. basic library skills instruction in the primary grades and technologically-oriented, resource-based instruction in the upper grades

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9. computer instruction which emphasizes the use of a computer as a learning and production tool-- word processing, databases, spreadsheet, and CD retrieval and integration skills at the appropriate grade levels;
10. technology education instruction that provides hands-on, computer-based learning opportunities for all 7-8 grade students;
11. instruction in the arts that provides varied opportunities and seeks to broaden the visual and performing arts perspective of all students;
12. health instruction which provides accurate information at the appropriate grade levels on personal health and wellness, human sexuality and family life, the effects of drug, alcohol, and tobacco use, AIDS awareness, and learning to deal effectively with pressures that can lead to substance abuse;
13. developmental physical education instruction that emphasizes participation, sportsmanship and lifelong fitness skills for all students;
14. academic and emotional support for all students by providing counseling, nursing and Child Study Team services; and
15. a balanced middle school extra-curricular activities program (Grades 5-8) that includes opportunities in the arts, journalism, school service and athletics.

The Board anticipates that teachers and administrators will continually strive to cultivate an atmosphere where academic excellence is the norm and individual goals are respected and fostered. It further encourages parents to be active participants in this pursuit. The Board also expects a responsive curriculum; open to innovation and challenging academic standards. These standards include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. consistently perform in the top 25% of peers nationwide on standardized reading and mathematics tests;
2. consistently exceed New Jersey proficient performance standards on the GEPA and the ESPA state tests;

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3. strive to increase the measurable results on all district testing through board annual goals;
4. maintain student and staff attendance above state averages;
5. every seventh and eighth grade students will be involved in at least one extra-curricular activity.

N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.1 et. seq., 6A:8-4.1-5  
N.J.S.A. 18A:35-1 et. seq., 18A:35-4 et. seq.

Adopted: 11 June 1996  
Revised: 10 September 2002