

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

“Every teacher and every classroom reflects a set of assumptions about the world. Those principles or assumptions comprise one’s personal philosophy as well as one’s educational philosophy.” (Webb, *et al.*, 2003)



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Developing a personal philosophy of education – While your philosophy statement may include whatever issues are important to you as you anticipate becoming the teacher you want to be, you should consider the following:

1. What are schools for? What are their most important functions?
2. What should students learn? (Is a broad liberal arts education best for all? Should contemporary culture have a place in the curriculum? Is western civilization more important to address than multicultural concerns? Should the schools try to teach values?)
3. Who should decide on the curriculum?
4. How do children (adolescents, adults) learn? What helps or hinders this?
5. Any of these related questions that are important to you: Can all children learn? Are some kids capable of lots more than others? What does it mean to be intelligent? Is it important that schools evaluate students and figure out who’s the best (or help people outside the school rank students’ abilities)?

* Image source: rtnl.files.wordpress.com/2007/01/thinker21.jpg

Webb, L, Meth, A and Jordan, K (2003). Foundations of American education, 4th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Merrill.