

THE VIEW FROM HERE

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The Wisconsin Department of Public Education (DPI) officially adopted the Common Core State Standards for English language arts and mathematics on June 2, 2010. Shortly after this adoption by the DPI it published the *Wisconsin Guiding Principles for Teaching and Learning*. The balance of this article will focus on these guiding principles.

1. **Every Student has the right to learn.** This principle is a natural extension of the belief that every child has the ability to learn. As a Guiding Principle this belief forms the basis of equitable teaching and learning. It is the foundation and essential commitment upon which the following five principles are based.
2. **Instruction must be rigorous and relevant.** This Guiding Principle is built upon the belief that there are certain truths or knowledge that all students must learn. What students learn and how they learn are closely related and effective instruction is a balance between course content and instruction that engages the learner.
3. **Purposeful assessment drives instruction and affects learning.** Accurately understanding the progress of each student plays a vital role in planning teaching. Employing a balanced assessment that is aligned to the Common Core State Standards will provide many opportunities to test and provide feedback to students and teachers.
4. **Learning is a collaborative responsibility.** Teaching and learning both benefit from working together with other students and teachers, family members and the community. Professionalism is advanced when teachers work with their fellow educators to support research based instructional methods.
5. **Students bring strengths and experience to learning.** Diverse cultures and experiences enrich the learning environment and promote an appreciation for the gifts and attitudes of all people.
6. **Responsive environments engage learners.** Just as athletes learn by actually performing, so do students. Learning environments that encourage and nurture creativity and collaboration promote engaged teaching and learning.

The School District of Poynette is committed to implementing the Common Core State Standards as well as the Wisconsin Guiding Principles for Teaching and Learning. Thank you for helping us meet these standards.