



Arkansas Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development

Position Statement: The Whole Child Concept

ASCD is calling for action. The national leadership of ASCD is calling for all educators to join forces “to ensure that our children become productive engaged citizens”. Their initiative is supported by “The Whole Child Action Agenda”.

The “whole child” construct is built around the original hierarchy of needs model which indicates that a child needs to be “healthy, safe, engaged, supported and academically challenged if they are to meet their potential to become productive, engaged citizens for the 21st Century.” The action agenda is defining what schools need to have in place in order to maximize the potential of each child.

Arkansas ASCD affiliate leaders strongly support the ASCD position that schools should focus on the five components of the “Whole Child.” To that end, AASCD affiliate members are asked to sign on to the Whole Child Compact, take the Community Survey and participate in regional community focus groups. We believe that data generated from the Whole Child compact, the Community Survey and the community conversations will build a sense of urgency about the need to design policy that supports the Whole Child.

THE WHOLE CHILD ACTION AGENDA

ASCD calls on parents, educators, policymakers and communities to join forces to ensure our children become productive, engaged citizens. Our children deserve an education that emphasizes academic rigor as well as the essential 21st century skills of critical thinking and creativity. Specifically, our students must be

HEALTHY

To ensure that all students are healthy, ASCD recommends, at a minimum:

- Schools have a health advisory council with students, family, community, and business members.
- Students are routinely screened for immunizations and vision, hearing, dental, and orthopedic concerns.
- Physical education and health classes emphasize lifetime healthy behaviors.
- Healthy food choices are available at school.

SAFE AND SECURE

To ensure that all students are safe, ASCD recommends, at a minimum:

- Students, school staff, and family members establish and maintain behavioral expectations, rules, and routines.
- Families are welcomed by school staff as partners in their children's education.

ENGAGED

To ensure that all students are adequately engaged, ASCD recommends, at a minimum:

- Students may participate in a wide array of extracurricular activities.
- Schools provide opportunities for community-based apprenticeships, internships, or projects.
- Teachers use active learning strategies such as cooperative learning and project-based learning.

SUPPORTED

To ensure that all students are adequately supported, ASCD recommends, at a minimum:

- Every student has an adult advisor or mentor.
- Students have access to school counselors or other student support systems.

CHALLENGED ACADEMICALLY

To ensure that all students are challenged academically with a well-balanced curriculum, ASCD recommends, at a minimum:

- Schools provide a well-rounded curriculum for all students.
- Students have access to rigorous programs in arts, foreign languages, and social studies.
- Schools maintain flexible graduation requirements.

