

## Part 2: Beliefs and Missions

Overview: Narrative description of the Process of Defining the School's Beliefs and Missions

Pulaski County High School embarked on the task to define our belief and mission statements, which would drive the entire School Improvement process in the Spring of 2004. Teachers, students, administrators, parents, and community and industry representatives formed the committee to set the foundation for all policies and decisions made at Pulaski County High School. To make our decisions, the committee looked at various sources of data and evaluated the opinions of all involved to find a consensus among the members.

The Beliefs and Missions Committee's first goal was to create a shared list of statements that would clearly and precisely define the beliefs of Pulaski County High School. In the Spring of 2004, the committee began by looking at background material such as county demographics, standardized test results, and School Improvement Opinion Surveys conducted by parents, students and teachers. Based on these items of data, the committee completed the "School Beliefs Inventory Survey" included in the NSSE's School Improvement: Focusing on Student Performance. Each member completed the inventory then we split into smaller groups to discuss statements that were listed as "4" or "5" by the members. Groups were asked to modify statements or make additions to the list to make them more conducive to the needs of our students. At this point, we developed a rough draft of several belief statements and members were asked to share them with peers as well as community and industry leaders. We later, reconvened in the fall of 2005 to share responses and narrow our list of statements. The statements were then distributed for approval.

The second major goal of the committee was to develop a Mission Statement for Pulaski County High School. The committee used external data such as demographic studies and opinion surveys completed by parents as well as internal data such as disaggregated data of student achievement on various tests and opinion surveys completed by teachers and students to form a statement that would give a clear direction and vision for our school. In the fall of 2005, the committee met with guidelines set out by the NSSE and the data mentioned above to brainstorm ideas for a mission statement. Members were then asked to share the rough draft and bring comments to the next meeting. After a few weeks, the Committee reviewed the suggestions and finalized the Mission Statement.

The Beliefs Statements and Mission Statement are included on the next page:

## Our Beliefs:

1. **Student Achievement is the chief priority for the school and community.**
2. **All students can learn when they have appropriate opportunities for success and should be provided with a variety of instructional approaches to support their learning in a safe and physically comfortable environment.**
3. **Curriculum and Instructional methods should incorporate researched based best practices to accommodate different learning styles and engage students in the learning process.**
4. **Exceptional students (e.g. special education, students with limited English proficiency, talented and gifted, etc) require special services.**
5. **Each student is a valued individual with unique physical, social, emotional, economical, and intellectual needs.**
6. **Interaction among different culture groups should be encouraged to increase student understanding of different people and cultures.**
7. **Teachers, administrators, and the community share the responsibility for advancing the school as a learning organization and providing opportunities for all.**

## Our Mission:

“Pulaski County High School is committed to maximizing student achievement and will share responsibility with families and the community to create an equitable learning environment that strives to develop all students into productive, responsible citizens and life-long learners.”