



**Policy 1.01  
Category: Philosophy**

**Vision and Mission**

**BACKGROUND**

Section 25 of the *Education Act* empowers the Minister to establish a charter school if the Minister is of the opinion that the school will have significant support from the community, the program to be offered will potentially improve the learning of the students, and the program offered is not already being offered by another public board.

“Providing parents a choice of educational environments acknowledges the diversity of children and students within our province and that not all environments serve all students in reaching their potential. Within the community of Medicine Hat, there are distinct groups of learners whose parents believe their children’s needs are best met in a smaller environment, where assessments can be conducted regularly and in a timely fashion, where personalized educational supports can be more easily adapted within an integrated, flexible learning environment, and that without these supports their children have or will “fall through the cracks” or will not reach their full potential. CAPE was established to address the needs of these students. We are the public charter school that personalizes programs for students with diverse and unique profiles by providing flexible, integrated learning within a small class environment.”

“CAPE’s personalized, integrated program within a community of learners that encompasses the school, parents, and community and supports each student’s efforts in a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment. Each learner is offered opportunities for engagement in the pursuit of personal and academic goals at a pace that is appropriate for the learner, that utilizes a learning style that best suits the learner, and provides the learner with avenues for demonstration of learning. Because this program is student-centred, each learner is provided opportunities for investigations and explorations within an open-ended curriculum within the context of Alberta Education Program of Studies.:

“The purpose of CAPE’s personalized, integrated program is to support the learner’s acquisition of cross-curricular competencies, critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and other academic skills while also developing personal skills such as relationships building, self-advocacy, creation of opportunities, risk-taking, and achieving goals.”

# CAPE-Centre for Academic and Personal Excellence Policy Manual

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“CAPE’s kindergarten program is a voluntary, pre-school, full-day, every-day, educational program offered to eligible children. The kindergarten program emphasizes a developmental process that encourages every child to grow intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally at a rate that respects the potential of each individual child. It therefore aligns with CAPE’s grade 1-9 integrated, personalized program.”

*CAPE charter, 2016*

## POLICY STATEMENT

1. CAPE-Centre for Academic and Personal Excellence Institute, commonly known as CAPE, will maintain a vision and mission statement which will inform and guide policy making as well as decisions and actions of the CAPE Board of Directors, the Society members, the staff, and the students.

2. The vision and mission statements are:

### **Vision**

To promote the development of knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values that support 21st century citizenry and life-long learning within a holistic, personalized, integrated, flexible learning environment.

### **Mission**

To foster the development of academic and personal skills through the provision of a personalized, integrated program so that each child or student may achieve success in the pursuit of personal and academic goals, strive for personal excellence, become engaged thinkers and ethical citizens with an entrepreneurial spirit, independent learners, and world citizens.

## DEFINITIONS

3. **Vision** - an aspirational description of what an organization would like to achieve or accomplish in the mid-term or long-term future. It is intended to serve as a clear guide for choosing current and future courses of action.
4. **Mission** - a written declaration of an organization's core purpose and focus that normally remains unchanged over time.
5. **Diversity** - the inclusion of different types of people in a group or organization.

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6. **Personalized program** - a program of study intended to facilitate the academic success of each student by first determining the learning needs, interests, and aspirations of individual students, and then providing learning experiences that are customized to a greater or lesser extent for each student.
7. **Integrated program** - a program that connects different areas of study by cutting across subject-matter lines and emphasizing unifying concepts and focuses on making connections for students, allowing them to engage in relevant, meaningful activities that can be connected to real life.
8. **Engagement** - the degree of attention, curiosity, interest, optimism, and passion that students show when they are learning or being taught, which extends to the level of motivation they have to learn and progress in their education.
9. **Learning style** - preferential way in which the student absorbs, processes, comprehends and retains information.
10. **Student-centred** - a wide variety of educational programs, learning experiences, instructional approaches, and academic-support strategies that are intended to address the distinct learning needs, interests, aspirations, or cultural backgrounds of individual students and groups of students.
11. **Cross-curricular** - a conscious effort to apply knowledge, principles, and/or values to more than one academic discipline simultaneously. The disciplines may be related through a central theme, issue, problem, process, topic, or experience.
12. **Competency** - concrete skills, learning outcome.

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**References:**

*Education Act (June 2020), Section 25*  
*CAPE charter 2016*

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