



FOOTHILLS

EDUCATION CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Vision

A vision statement:

- Evokes a picture of the organization's future
- Provides a clear sense of direction for students and staff
- Inspires a standard of excellence
- Serves as the framework for the strategic development of policies, procedures and programs

Statement #1: *An accessible quality high school option that is flexible and responsive to the needs of Georgia students.*

Statement #2: *Become "The Elite Second Chance" learning environment for students who need a non-traditional graduation plan. To become more than a school, become a way of life for those individual who need the extra help and support that we offer.*

Statement #3: *Foothills will be a well-known institution with a wide-spread reputation of providing students a viable option to earn their high school diploma and become self-motivated, hard-working members of their communities.*

Statement #4: *Foothills Education Charter High School has strong relationships with the communities in which sites are located, surrounding communities, and the Department of Corrections. Students are graduating on an ongoing basis and feel supported through our work, leading to expanding enrollment. Based on the strength of this work, other communities across the state have reached-out to seek direct support or advice.*

Suggested Vision Statement: *Foothills Charter High School strives to be an accessible high quality high school option that is flexible and responsive to the needs of the People of Georgia and its communities.*

This vision statement includes the name of the school, uses positive language to emphasize the school's vision for greater flexibility without looking at the students through a deficit lens, and notes the school's dedication to students, potential students (People of Georgia), and need for greater visibility throughout communities.

Mission

A mission statement:

- Describes with clarity the core purpose of the organization
- Is the anchor that drives internal strategy-based decisions
- Is the anchor for serving external stakeholders

Statement #1: *Foothills Education Charter High School is a community and state resource for students who want to earn a high school diploma in order to be successful in post-secondary and/or career options.*

Captures the spirit of the old mission statement, and leads the organization in the direction of planning students' post-secondary and career options

Statement #2: *To provide students the opportunity to be successful learners and to earn a high school diploma.*

The current mission statement. Describes the purpose, but does little to drive internal strategy-based decisions.

Statement #3: *To provide students the opportunity to be successful learners and to earn a high school diploma.*

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Statement #4: *To provide students the opportunity to be successful learners and to earn a high school diploma.*

The current mission statement. Describes the purpose, but does little to drive internal strategy-based decisions.

Suggested Mission Statement: Foothills Education Charter High School is a community and state resource for students who want to earn a high school diploma in order to be successful in post-secondary and career options.

In the policy environment there is a clear distinction between "college and career," but those who are going to college are going to eventually reach a career. Foothills provides students with skills so that they will be successful in both, not either.

Guiding Principles

Guiding principles are the attitudes, behaviors, and commitments that organizational members demonstrate to accomplish the vision and mission.

Principles #1

- 1. Students learn in different ways and at different rates, Foothills will accommodate these differences when possible.*
- 2. Student ownership of learning and behavior is critical, Foothills will facilitate student ownership of learning.*
- 3. Students are successful when teachers serve as facilitators of learning, teachers will facilitate learning, not direct learning.*
- 4. Student-teacher/staff relationships are critical to student success, staff will support students and each other through careful communication.*
- 5. A safe orderly learning environment is essential for all students, inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated.*
- 6. Foothills will be a resource and point of pride for every community producing students who are ready for the work force and/or post secondary schooling, communication with the public on program progress is essential.*

Principles #2

- 1. Student learning needs and success should be our primary focus*
- 2. Support systems will be the glue that holds our success together*
- 3. A fresh start and second chance is our motto. Hope is eternal for each student*
- 4. Creativity/Flexibility in meeting student needs is essential. Differential learning opportunities are the daily options for student success.*
- 5. Technology is the key cog to our success.*
- 6. Teachers and staff have high expectations and are highly qualified to meet the needs of all students.*

7. *Students are provided a safe and secure environment in which to learn and excel.*

Principle #3

1. *Learning will be supported by providing the resources students need to be successful.*
2. *Students' extra-curricular/social/emotional needs and life circumstances will be supported through direct activity and referrals.*
3. *Foothills staff will communicate with each other clearly and consistently to support students learning and other needs.*
4. *Foothills administration will provide ongoing communication and outreach to partner school districts, the Department of Corrections, and other community partners.*
5. *Foothills will consistently review policies and procedures, and make changes when necessary, to ensure the highest-quality work possible.*

Principles #4

1. *Students learn more when they are responsible for their learning and behavior.*
2. *Student learning is demonstrated by mastery of essential knowledge and skills.*
3. *Students are more successful when teachers perform the functions of motivator, facilitator, counselor and tutor.*
4. *Students learn more when they are actively engaged in an individualized, self-paced curriculum.*
5. *Learning is enhanced by positive relationships and mutual respect between staff and students.*

Suggested Principles:

1. *Students learn in different ways and at different rates, Foothills will accommodate these differences when possible.*
2. *Students learn more when they are responsible for their learning and behavior.*

- 3. *Students are most successful when provided a safe and secure environment in which to learn and excel.***
- 4. *Students are most successful when teachers and staff have high expectations and are highly qualified and coexist in a collegial environment.***
- 5. *Foothills Charter High School will be more successful with ongoing communication and outreach to partner school districts, the Department of Corrections, and other community partners.***
- 6. *Foothills Charter High School will be most effective with consistent review of policies and procedures in order to ensure the highest-quality work possible.***

Used principles from above and put them in a passive voice. Made slight change to principle number 4 to add commitment of teachers and staff to one another.