

## What is your Philosophy of Education?

As you read through each of the following statements about schools and teaching, decide how strongly you agree or disagree. Write your response to the left of each statement, using the following scale:

- 5 Agree Strongly
- 4 Agree
- 3 Neither agree nor disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 1 Disagree strongly

- \_\_\_ 1. A school curriculum should include a common body of information that all students should know.
- \_\_\_ 2. The school curriculum should focus on the great ideas that have survived through time.
- \_\_\_ 3. The gap between the real world and schools should be bridged through field trips, internships, and adult members.
- \_\_\_ 4. Schools should prepare students for analyzing and solving the social problems they will face beyond the classroom.
- \_\_\_ 5. Each student should determine his or her individual curriculum, and teachers should guide and help them.
- \_\_\_ 6. Students should not be promoted from one grade to the next until they have read and mastered certain key material.
- \_\_\_ 7. Schools, above all, should develop students' abilities to think deeply, analytically, and creatively, rather than focus on transient concerns like social skills and current trends.
- \_\_\_ 8. Whether inside or outside the classroom, teachers must stress the relevance of what students are learning to real and current events.
- \_\_\_ 9. Education should enable students to recognize injustices in society, and schools should promote projects to redress social inequities.
- \_\_\_ 10. Students who do not want to study much should not be required to do so.
- \_\_\_ 11. Teachers and schools should emphasize academic rigor, discipline, hard work, and respect for authority.

- \_\_\_ 12. Education is primarily about workers and the world economic competition; learning should be appreciated for its own sake and students should enjoy reading, learning, and discussing intriguing ideas.
- \_\_\_ 13. The school curriculum should be designed by teachers to respond to the experiences and needs of students.
- \_\_\_ 14. Schools should promote positive group relationships by teaching about different ethnic and racial groups.
- \_\_\_ 15. The purpose of school is to help students understand themselves, appreciate their distinctive talents and insights, and find their own unique place in the world.
- \_\_\_ 16. For the United States to be competitive economically in the world marketplace, schools must bolster their academic requirements in order to train more competent workers.
- \_\_\_ 17. Teachers ought to teach from the classics, because important insights related to many of today's challenges and concerns are found in these Great Books.
- \_\_\_ 18. Since students learn effectively through social interaction, schools should plan for substantial social interaction in their curricula.
- \_\_\_ 19. Students should be taught how to be politically literate and learn how to improve the quality of life for all people.
- \_\_\_ 20. The central role of the school is to provide students with options and choices. The student must decide what and how to learn.
- \_\_\_ 21. Schools must provide students with a firm grasp of basic facts regarding the books, people, and events that have shaped the nation's heritage.
- \_\_\_ 22. The teacher's main goal is to help students unlock the insights learned over time, so they can gain wisdom from the great thinkers of the past.
- \_\_\_ 23. Students should be active participants in the learning process, involved in the democratic class decision making and reflective thinking.
- \_\_\_ 24. Teaching should mean more than simply transmitting the Great Books, which are replete with biases and prejudices. Rather, schools need to identify a new list of Great Books more appropriate for today's world and prepare students to create a better society than their ancestors did.
- \_\_\_ 25. Effective teachers help students to discover and develop their personal values, even when those values conflict with traditional ones.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 26. Teachers should help students constantly reexamine their beliefs. In history, for example, students should learn about those who have been historically omitted: the poor, the non-European, women, and people of color.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 27. Frequent objective testing is the best way to determine what students know. Rewarding students when they learn, even when they learn small things, is the key to successful teaching.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 28. Education should be a responsibility of the family and community, rather than delegated to formal and impersonal institutions, such as schools.