

DECLARATION OF VALUES

PREAMBLE

With the Declaration of Values, the Fédération des établissements d'enseignement privés (Federation of Private Schools) lays the foundation for its collective identity and the shared ideals of its membership. The Declaration is based on the principles, characteristics, and values that have drawn its member institutions together, and is an extension of their sense of belonging to the Federation they have freely joined. The Declaration also has the purpose of demonstrating a resolve to uphold and further the autonomy of its members. Each private school may and must assert its uniqueness as well as the principles and values of its educational project as embodied daily by its faculty.

THE FOUNDING PRINCIPLES OF THE DECLARATION OF VALUES

- A) To continue growing, Quebec society needs involved citizens with vision and the willingness to carry out and support projects. The education system has the responsibility to so educate the upcoming citizenry.
- B) Quebec society has maintained its vitality in the North-American environment because it has preserved its cultural heritage and has the ability to adapt, evolve and innovate; in that respect, education plays a crucial role.
- C) Quebec society has the duty to provide education to all its citizens whose varied needs require an array of educational institutions that are just as varied in terms of mission, educational environment and moral climate, and range of services.
- D) The Québec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms guarantees parents the freedom to choose private educational establishments for their children, provided such establishments comply with the standards prescribed or approved under the law (article 42). As many as possible must be given the opportunity to exercise this freedom of choice in order to meet the needs of children and their family.

FEATURES OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS

The features listed below are both a realistic portrayal of educational establishments and a description of their ambitions. There are six main features defined through 20 statements.

I - Private Schools are legally recognized, independent and chosen learning institutions.

- 1 - Private schools are set up in accordance with Quebec legislation and therefore fulfill a public interest mission.
- 2 - Private schools are fully independent with a sufficient range of action to efficiently respond to the changing needs of its clientele and adapt to an evolving society's requirements.
- 3 - Private schools are chosen by students and their parents.

II - Private Schools are diversified and share common goals

- 4 - The student body of Private Schools is composed of children from all socioeconomic backgrounds. Several establishments offer financial support for improved access to their services.
- 5 - Private Schools admit students with a variety of profiles. They carry out their educational mission towards each and every one of them by challenging them to surpass themselves.
- 6 - Private Schools offer a wide variety of programmes and services (regular curriculum, international curriculum, mixed sports and studies curriculum, mixed arts and studies curriculum, remedial teaching programs, programs for gifted pupils, specialized schools, boarding schools, etc.).
- 7 - Private Schools, aware and mindful of parent and pupil needs, promote a set of fundamental values that range from intellectual, cultural, and socio-emotional to moral and spiritual. They encourage parent involvement to carry out their mission.
- 8 - In keeping with their heritage, some Private Schools offer an educational plan that passes on the legacy of spiritual values.

- 9 - Private Schools, concerned with providing individualized coaching, put quality supervision and various extracurricular activities at the disposal of pupils to develop their sense of belonging and foster their success.

III - Private Schools, though steeped in tradition, serve today's and tomorrow's society

- 10 - Though they remain true to their heritage, Private Schools are very much in touch with current times and events and prepare for the future by keeping abreast of trends and advancements in education.
- 11 - Private Schools are true partners in Quebec's educational mission; they contribute to the goals, programs and values defined by the Quebec legislature to develop a responsible, autonomous and involved citizenship.
- 12 - Private Schools make individual choices that reflect a history, an identity, and a distinctiveness that enrich Quebec's school system.
- 13 - Private Schools advocate, promote and carry values into action, and submit these values as a code of behavior and conduct for all those within their walls.

IV - Private Schools are adaptable and innovative

- 14 - Private Schools harbour conditions conducive to educational innovation: the faculty's self-reliance, flexibility, open-mindedness, creativity, stability, and commitment to the school's educational plan.
- 15 - Private Schools are valuable contributors to the development of the Quebec school system by implementing various worthy teaching approaches based equally on experience and on the latest research in the field of education.

V - Private Schools are involved in their community

- 16 - Private Schools advocate environmental awareness, sustainable development, and an openness on the world, and promote these values through their educational effort.
- 17 - Private Schools extend their action far beyond their walls into society and contribute to Quebec's development through its membership in an expertise-sharing network of teaching establishments.
- 18 - As employers and partners of other community organizations, Private Schools contribute to local economic, social and cultural growth.

VI - Private Schools are responsible

- 19 - Private Schools are socially responsible organizations. They engage in ethical conduct and implement sound management and good governance practices.
- 20 - Private Schools are by design accountable.

Carried unanimously at the General Meeting on May 4, 2006.
Modified unanimously at the General Meeting on November 8, 2012.

Our establishment endorsed this declaration

Signature