



## **Kinnelon Public Schools Department of Curriculum & Instruction**

### **Learning and Assessment Principles**

The following learning and assessment principles were compiled as a result of collaborative discussions between Kinnelon teachers, special services professionals, and administrators.

1. All students are capable of learning.
2. Motivation directly reflects student learning and helps students find value and create meaning. Thus, students achieve best in a safe environment that encourages investment in and enthusiasm and motivation for learning.
3. Students need to see the purpose of their work in order to be engaged and sustain learning and only then will understanding follow. Learning should be relevant and meaningful.
4. Effective learning takes place when instruction honors learners' strengths, prior knowledge and interests.
5. Effective learning involves students' acquisition of component skills, practice integrating those skills and opportunities to appropriately apply what they have learned.
6. Transfer, the ultimate goal of education occurs when students have the ability to make meaning, connect and use learning among and between subjects, grade levels and real-life situations.
7. Learners require clear goals, priorities and a practical knowledge of the work products involved to meet goals and understand standards of excellence.
8. Continuous assessments, both formative and summative are necessary for effective learning. Formative assessments should be used to inform students and encourage intellectual, academic, and social development as well as the encouragement of individual goal setting for independent and ongoing learning.
9. Learners require regular, timely, and user-friendly feedback to understand goals, produce quality work, and meet high standards.
10. Feedback within the triangle of parent, teacher, and student is beneficial to promote communication, clarify and cohesiveness among all three components.