

## **5.1 -- PHILOSOPHY**

The philosophy of the Van Buren School District Board of Education, Administration, and Faculty is that public education exists to provide the youth of the community with opportunities for mental, physical, social and emotional development regardless of their race, religion, sex, national origin, or any limitation whether physical, mental, or emotional. All students shall have access to all educational opportunities available in the district.

Each child is seen as a unique person who possesses certain potentials, needs, aspirations, and interests. As each pupil is different, it is the purpose of education to provide him with different experiences in school which will enable him to achieve his maximum potential, so that he may be a useful and productive member of society.

It is understood that though all children will not learn all things equally well, all should have an equal opportunity to the pursuit of education: thus, the Van Buren School District will attempt to balance its program to provide for the varied interests and needs of the pupils. In providing for the education of students identified as having a handicapping condition the schools will foster an atmosphere and environment that encourages maximum interaction to stimulate growth in the school, home, and community. In order to be successful in acquiring jobs in the competitive sector that result in reasonable incomes; in using stores, services, and recreational facilities in the community; and in maintaining a home as adults, these students will need instruction with non-handicapped peers in school and community environments. Van Buren School District, with input from parents, will provide the needed instruction and has adopted a community based instructional model emphasizing community integration.

The Van Buren School District accepts the conclusion that the education of children is a comprehensive program which must be undertaken in cooperation with other institutions of society and will seek to establish and maintain strong ties with parents and community programs.