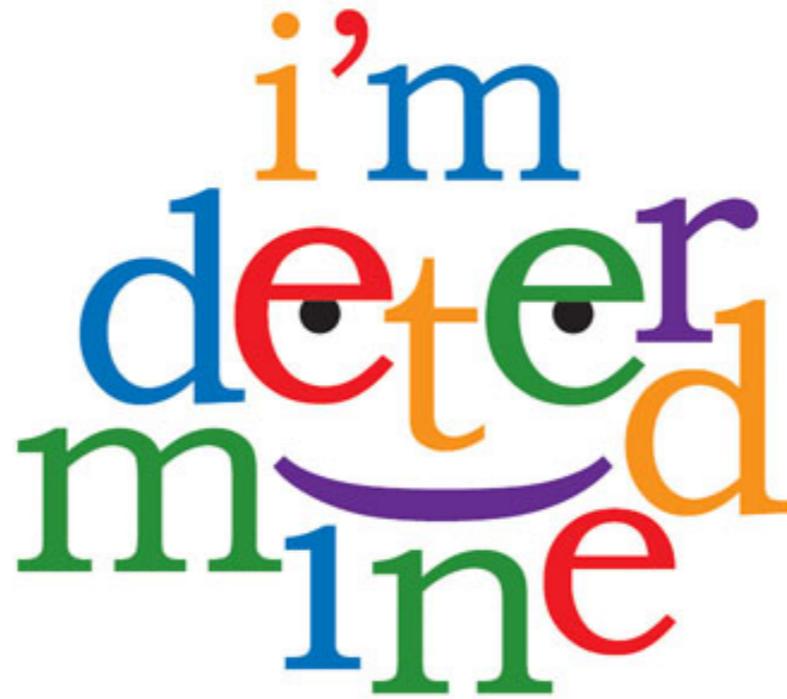
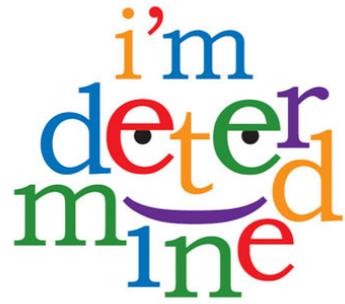
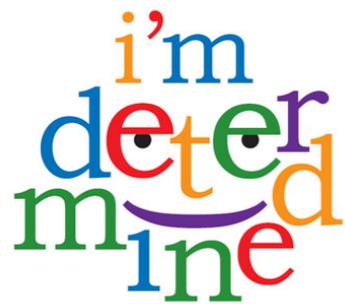


# In the Middle & I'm Determined to Move Forward





[www.indetermined.org](http://www.indetermined.org)

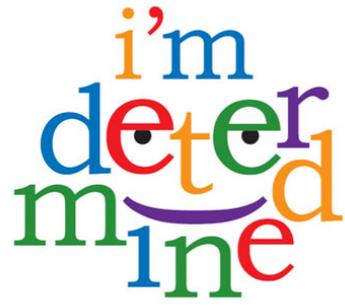


## What is Self-Determination?

Acting as the primary causal agent in one's life and making choices and decisions regarding one's quality of life free from undue external influence or interference.

- Wehmeyer, 1996





# What is Self-Determination?

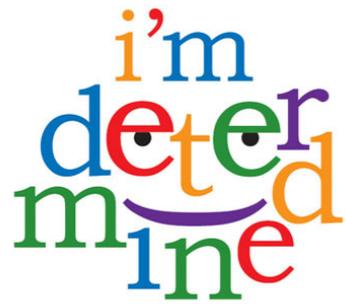


Knowing & believing  
in yourself



Believe in  
yourself and you  
can achieve  
anything...





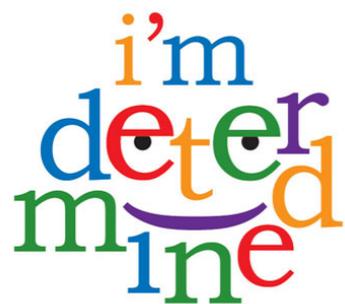
# What is Self-Determination?

Knowing what you want your future to be like and how to make plans to achieve this future.

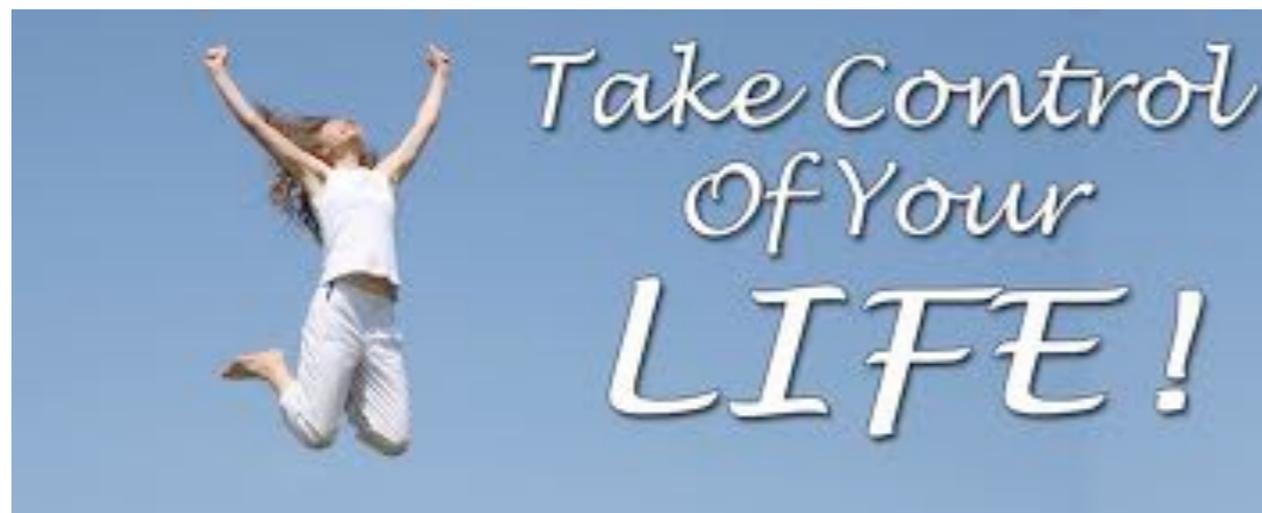
**FUTURE  
PLANS**



"Have you given any thought to what you're going to do with your life after Summer Vacation?"



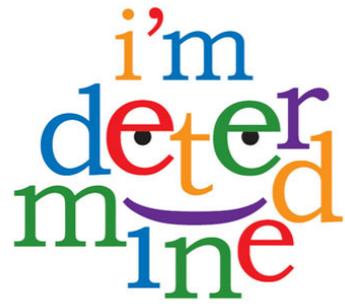
# What is Self-Determination?



I ♥  
ME

Knowing the supports that you need to take control of your life.

**Take  
Control**



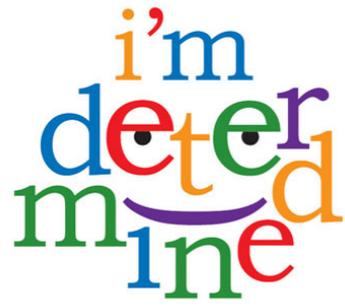
# Our Focus



Use a person-centered approach to planning for the immediate and long-term future.



Wehmeyer & Kelchner, 1996; Wehmeyer & Metzler, 1996



# Our Focus



Promote inclusion in the community



Foster relationships

Wehmeyer & Kelchner, 1996; Wehmeyer & Metzler, 1996

i'm  
deter  
mine

# Our Focus

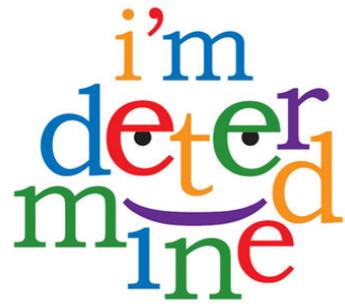
Help students make wise choices



Respect the individual and their value in society

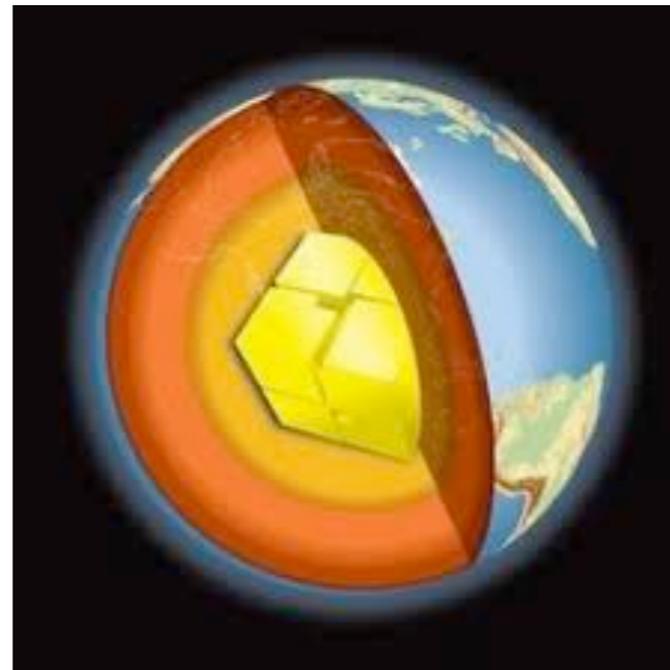
**RESPECT**  
PEOPLE • WORK • COMMUNITIES

Wehmeyer & Kelchner, 1996; Wehmeyer & Metzler, 1996



## Core Components (combination of skills, knowledge & beliefs)

- Choice-making
- Decision-making
- Problem-solving
- Goal-setting & attainment
- Internal locus of control
- Positive attributes of efficacy and outcomes

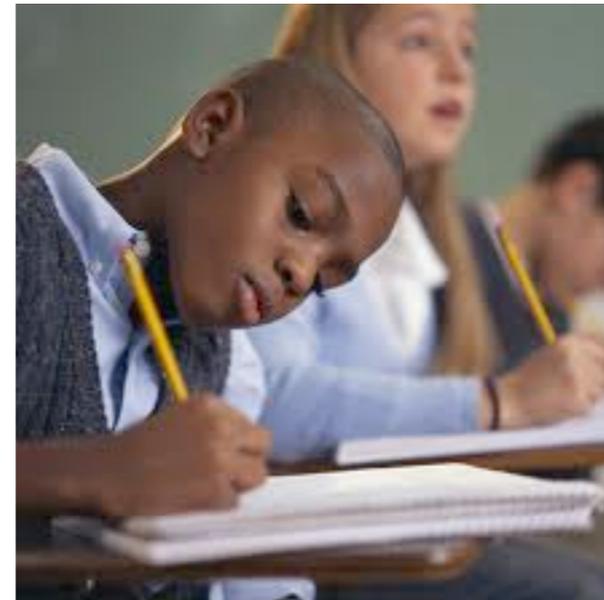


- Self-Observation
- Self-Evaluation
- Self-Reinforcement
- Self-Instruction
- Self-Advocacy & Leadership
- Self-Awareness
- Self-Knowledge

i'm  
deter  
mine

# This We Believe

## Keys to Educating Young Adolescents



# This We Believe

## Keys to Educating Young Adolescents



Association for Middle Level Education  
formerly National Middle School Association

### Essential Attributes

An education for young adolescents must be

#### Developmentally Responsive

using the nature of young adolescents as the foundation on which all decisions are made.

#### Challenging

recognizing that every student can learn and everyone is held to high expectations.

#### Empowering

providing all students with the knowledge and skills they need to take control of their lives.

#### Equitable

advocating for every student's right to learn and providing challenging and relevant learning opportunities.

Association for Middle Level Education

## Successful Schools for Young Adolescents

### 16 Characteristics

#### Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Educators value young adolescents and are prepared to teach them. *Value Young Adolescents*

Students and teachers are engaged in active, purposeful learning. *Active Learning*

Curriculum is challenging, exploratory, integrative, and relevant. *Challenging Curriculum*

Educators use multiple learning and teaching approaches. *Multiple Learning Approaches*

Varied and ongoing assessments advance learning as well as measure it. *Varied Assessments*

#### Leadership and Organization

A shared vision developed by all stakeholders guides every decision. *Shared Vision*

Leaders are committed to and knowledgeable about this age group, educational research, and best practices. *Committed Leaders*

Leaders demonstrate courage and collaboration. *Courageous & Collaborative Leaders*

Ongoing professional development reflects best educational practices. *Professional Development*

Organizational structures foster purposeful learning and meaningful relationships. *Organizational Structures*

#### Culture and Community

The school environment is inviting, safe, inclusive, and supportive of all. *School Environment*

Every student's academic and personal development is guided by an adult advocate. *Adult Advocate*

Comprehensive guidance and support services meet the needs of young adolescents. *Guidance Services*

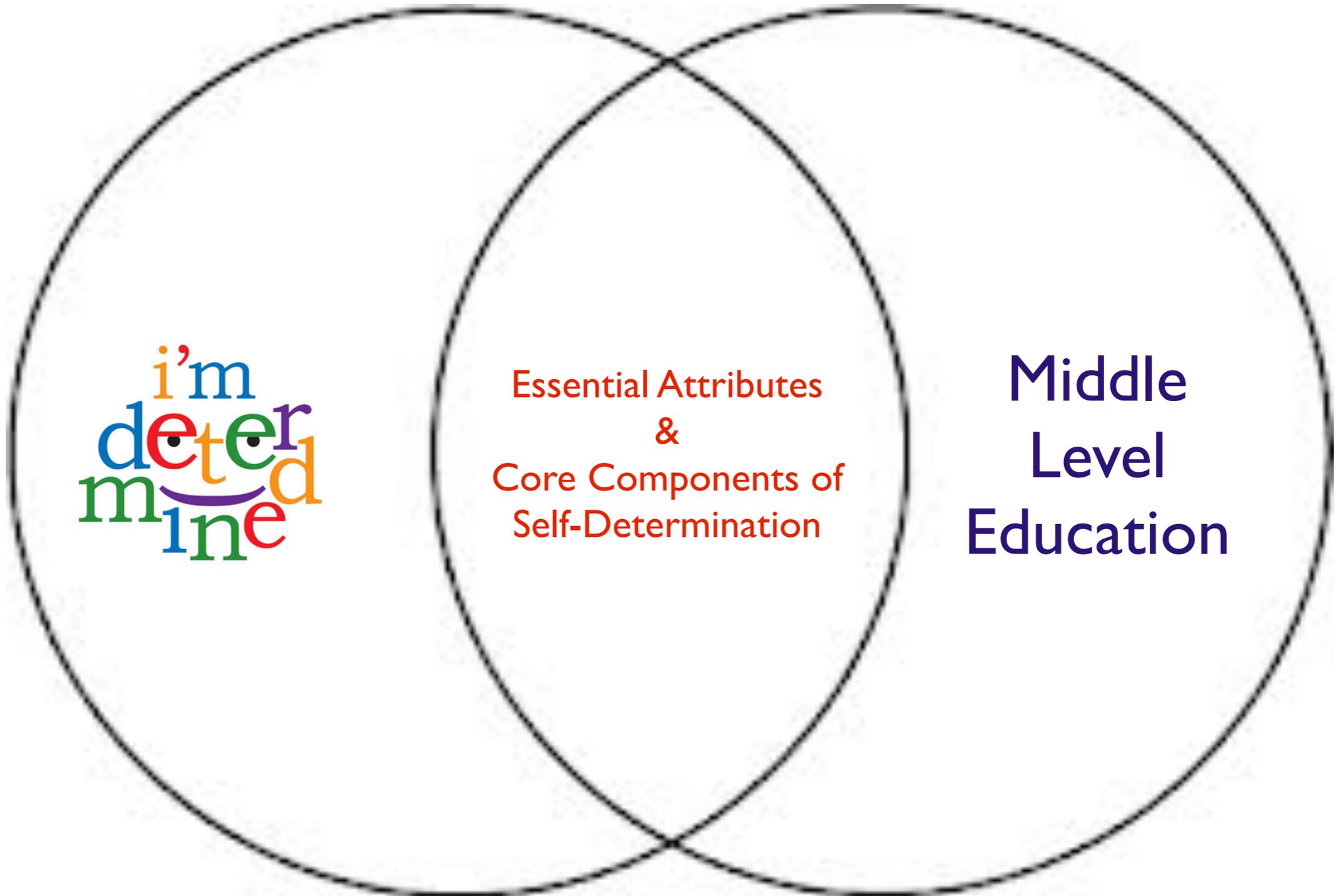
Health and wellness are supported in curricula, school-wide programs, and related policies. *Health & Wellness*

The school actively involves families in the education of their children. *Family Involvement*

The school includes community and business partners. *Community & Business*

This chart is based on This We Believe: Keys to Educating Young Adolescents (AMLE 2010). For more information visit us at, [www.amle.org](http://www.amle.org)

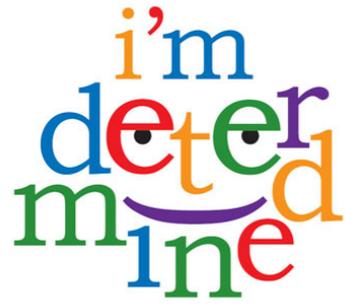
i'm  
deter  
mine



i'm  
deter  
mine

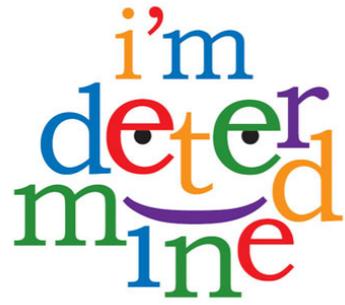
Essential Attributes  
&  
Core Components of  
Self-Determination

Middle  
Level  
Education



# 4 Essential Attributes

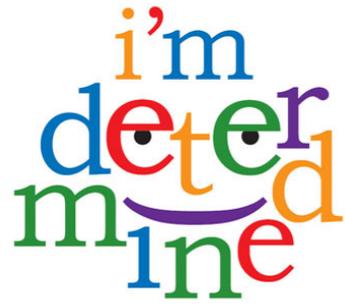
- ★ Developmentally Responsive
- ★ Challenging
- ★ Empowering
- ★ Equitable



# Developmentally Responsive

- ★ Using the nature of young adolescents as the foundation on which all decisions are made

Person Centered  
&  
Decision-Making

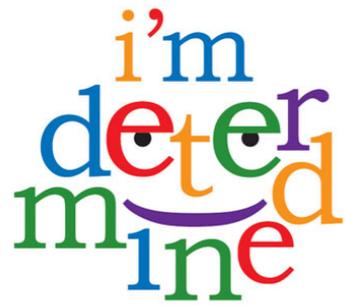


# Challenging



★ Recognizing that every student can learn and everyone is held to high expectations

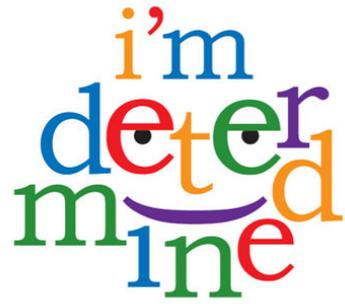
Goal Setting & Attainment  
&  
Internal Locus of Control



# Empowering

★ Providing all students with the knowledge and skills they need to take control of their lives

Self-knowledge  
&  
Self-instruction



# Equitable

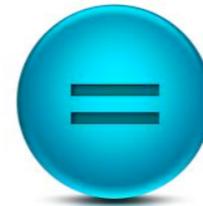


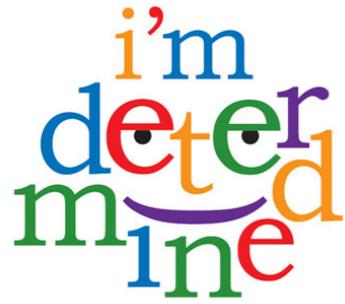
★ Advocating for every student's right to learn  
and providing challenging and relevant  
learning opportunities

Choice Making  
Problem Solving  
&  
Self-Advocacy

# Essential Attributes + Core Components

i'm  
deter  
mine





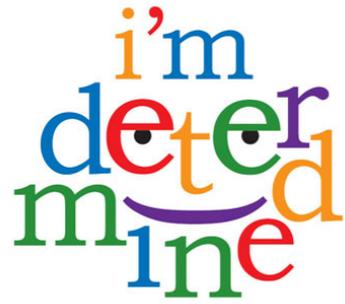
Are you  
Determined?

i'm  
deter  
mine



A hundred years from now it  
will not matter what my bank  
account was, the sort of house  
I lived in, or the kind of car  
I drove...but the world may  
be different because I was  
important in the life of a child  
- Kathy Davis





# The Virginia Department of Education's Perspective on Youth Engagement

**John Eisenberg**  
Assistant Superintendent  
of  
Special Education & Student Services

i'm  
deter  
mine

