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File: LA - EDUCATION AGENCY RELATIONS GOALS

The school committee appreciates the place and importance of an educational system in its greater environment, which includes other organizations and institutions dedicated to education. It believes that much is gained through cooperative endeavors with other agencies.

In order to make a maximum contribution to education, within the school system and to other educational agencies, the committee establishes these broad goals:

1. To encourage liaison with other educational agencies.
2. To supply educational services to and/or share with other educational agencies.

File: LB - RELATIONS WITH OTHER SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS

The school committee will cooperate with other schools and with local, state, and regional agencies and organizations to:

1. Seek solutions of educational problems of common concern.
2. Offer support services of high quality to our children.
3. Equalize educational opportunities for all children.
4. Acquire federal and state grants.
5. Promote local school system involvement in state and federal decision making.

This cooperation may extend to research, providing transportation for children to special schools and hospitals, coordination of curriculum, exchange of information and data, construction of facilities that may be efficiently used on a cooperative basis, and the coordination of school calendars and activities.

Before joining any cooperative programs, education collaborative, or participating in any joint educational services with other school systems, the school committee wants to be sure that in all instances the best interests of our school children will be served. In carrying out this policy the superintendent will include in reports to the committee an evaluation of the desirability and feasibility of cooperation with other schools and agencies on matters of mutual interest.

Private Schools

In accordance with state law, the school committee will approve a private school when it is satisfied that the instructional program of the school equals that of the town's public schools in thoroughness, efficiency, and progress made.

The committee recognizes that many worthwhile contributions are made to this community by parochial and other private schools. Therefore, it will cooperate with these schools in matters of mutual benefit when this cooperation is not expressly prohibited by law.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 40:4E; 71:48; 71:71D; 71B:4; 74:4 through 74:7A; 76:1

File: LBC - HOME EDUCATION

The School Committee of the Walpole Public Schools recognizes and respects the right of parents or guardians to educate their child(ren) at home. The School Committee appreciates the personal and cultural uniqueness of each family and desires to ensure that the process by which school officials approve and review home education programs is both lawful and equitable. Therefore, the School Committee establishes this home education policy.

Parent(s) or guardian(s) planning to undertake a home education program for their child(ren) between their sixth and sixteenth birthdays shall inform the Superintendent by completing the Notice of Intent to Pursue a Program of Home Education form as approved by the School Committee and forwarding it to the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Grants.

Home education programs shall be considered in an equitable, objective, and timely manner. Factors that may be considered by the Superintendent or School Committee in deciding whether or not to approve a home education proposal are:

1. The academic background, life experiences and/or other qualities of those who will be instructing the child(ren), as they relate to the educational program. Home educators need not be certified teachers nor have any diplomas or degrees.
2. An overview of the educational program that includes subjects to be taught and instructional materials to be used. In order to meet the specific educational needs of their child(ren), parent(s) or guardian(s) may adjust the material to achieve the goals of the educational program without further notification to the Superintendent's office.
3. A statement concerning instructional hours that will be followed.
4. A mutually agreeable method of assessment which corresponds to the type of educational program being followed and may include one or more of the following:
 - a. Daily logs, journals, progress reports, portfolios or dated work samples
 - b. An independent report made by someone acceptable to both the superintendent and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the home schooled student(s)
 - c. Standardized test results
 - d. Consultation with the Superintendent or appropriate school principal
 - e. Any other method agreed to by both Superintendent and home educator(s)

A student being educated in a home-based program within the district, who requests access to public school activities of either a curricular or extra-curricular nature, will be afforded the opportunity to participate. Arrangements for such participation are to be in accordance with the generally accepted scheduling and eligibility procedures of the schools. A home education student's participation in public school curricular activities will be specifically outlined in the proposed program approved by the district. That portion of public school time will be counted towards the school's total pupil enrollment for the academic year, and all provisions of public school procedures and policies shall apply to the participating student during this time.

File: LOA - STUDENT TEACHING AND INTERNSHIPS

The committee encourages the administration to cooperate with teacher-training institutions in the placement of student teachers in the school system. All initial arrangements with the colleges and universities will be subject to committee approval.

The committee authorizes the administration to honor the reasonable rules and training guidelines of the sending institution.

In all arrangements made with colleges and universities, the school system will be given the privilege of interviewing and accepting or rejecting individual candidates for student teaching and internships.

The school administration will devise procedures for evaluating the performance of student teachers that meet requirements of the sending institution and fit with the committee's policies.