

SECTION L

EDUCATION AGENCY RELATIONS

- LA EDUCATION AGENCY RELATIONS GOALS**
- LB RELATIONS WITH OTHER SCHOOLS AND
SCHOOL DISTRICTS**
- LBC RELATIONS WITH HOME SCHOOLS**

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.

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 new 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

RELATIONS WITH HOME SCHOOLS

Several procedures that must be followed prior to the Superintendent approving a home study plan:

1. All of the requirements recommended by the Massachusetts Department of Education must be met.
2. Information indicating parent/guardian indicating his/ her competency to teach will be requested by the Superintendent or designee.
3. Approval of the program must be obtained in advance prior to the removal of the children from school and to the commencement of the home schooling program. The Superintendent may waive this requirement.
4. Parent or guardian must be provided, by the Superintendent or the School Committee with an opportunity to explain this proposed plan and present witnesses on their behalf.
5. Parents must demonstrate that the home school proposal fulfills the requirements of M.G.L. 71:1.
6. Parent or guardian must provide a curriculum outline indicating the length of the proposed home school year, a list of subjects to be taught and the hours of instruction in each subject.
7. The Superintendent or School Committee must have access to the textbooks, workbooks and other instructional aids to be used by the children and to the lesson plans and teaching manuals to be used by the parents. The Superintendent or School Committee will not use this access to dictate the manner in which the subjects will be taught.
8. Periodic standardized testing of the children will be required, with the exception of MCAS, in order to ensure educational progress and attainment of minimum standards. Other means of evaluating the progress of the children may be substituted for the formal testing process.
9. If the student is to continue in the program for more than one school year, the study plan must be approved annually.
10. All requirements of the Department of Public Health regarding immunization must be completed.

Parents have the right to a hearing before the school authorities to allow them an opportunity to explain their plan and answer questions about it.

They may be represented by counsel and will be provided reasonable notice of the time and place of such a hearing.

If a plan is approved, there will be a periodic evaluation and monitoring of the child's progress under guidelines and standards set by the School Committee to assess whether adequate educational progress has been made.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:1; 71:2; 71:3; 71:4; 76:1; 76:2; 76:3; 119
603 Code Mass. Regulations Section 27.01 (1980)
S.J.C. Care and Protection of Charles, 399 Mass.
324 (1987)