

THE PEOPLE AND THEIR SCHOOL DISTRICT

The public schools belong to the people. The people govern the schools under rights guaranteed to them under the Constitution and statutes of our State. The people exercise their proprietorship through the elective process. They elect state and federal representatives who establish -- through the legislature and the Congress -- the framework of law within which the schools operate. And they elect a School Board to represent them and to determine local educational plans and policy and to establish publicly-endorsed educational goals and objectives. The School Board functions as an agency of the public within this framework.

The Board is mindful that the people are the ultimate governors of public education and that the Board is directly accountable to the people. It is the responsibility of the Board to involve students, teachers, support staff, the Superintendent of Schools, building administrators, and the people themselves in this governance. The Board therefore asserts these beliefs and expectations:

Students should be trained at home and by the schools in order that they will learn to hold themselves accountable for their own lives, actions, and decisions as maturing members of a democratic society.

Teachers should hold students accountable for achieving (to the maximum limits of each student's abilities) the objectives of each learning experience.

The Superintendent shall hold teachers and other employees accountable for working with diligent effort and with intelligence and imagination in achieving the objectives directly related to their stated job responsibilities.

The Board shall appoint the most capable person available to hold the position of Superintendent of Schools and shall hold him or her accountable for providing creative professional leadership and counsel in all aspects of the school district.

The Board shall also hold itself accountable for carrying out its mandate to plan, to make policy, and to lead in the identification of goals and objectives and the resources necessary for their achievement.

The public should hold itself accountable for maintaining a vigorous interest in, concern for, and constructive criticism of the schools; for electing the most able men and women available to represent them on the School Board and in the State Legislature and U.S. Congress; and for providing the resources necessary for the Board and staff to accomplish the publicly-endorsed goals and objectives of the school district.

Adopted: **DATE:** May 22, 2002
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