

# **SECTION L**

## **EDUCATION AGENCY RELATIONS**

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## **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 Milton Public Schools and to other educational agencies, the School Committee establishes these broad goals:

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

REC'D: NESDEC

Original Adoption: October 5, 2005

**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 to 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; and
5. Promote local Milton Public Schools 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 schools or 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 School 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 of Milton's public schools in thoroughness, efficiency, and progress made.

The School 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 law does not expressly prohibit this cooperation.

LEGAL REFS: M.G.L. 40:4E; 71:48; 71:71D; 71B:4; 74:4 through 74:7A; 76:1  
REC'D: NESDEC  
Original Adoption: October 5, 2005

## **BLUE HILLS REGIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT: PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS**

The nine towns of the Blue Hills Regional Technical School District, including Milton, have come together in a collective effort to provide students the option of electing to participate in a program of technical education. The programs at Blue Hills Regional Technical School ("Blue Hills Regional") provide a basic foundation for life-long learning, and are designed to equip students to enter the workplace or for further education. This gives our students access to specialized technical education that would otherwise be difficult to provide in our individual communities.

The principal efforts of Blue Hills Regional are to provide each high school and adult student with a comprehensive education that prepares him or her for gainful employment, and to provide the communities of the nine member district with productive citizens. Through a solid occupational/technical/academic educational program, each student is prepared to successfully meet the demands of ever-changing technologies, and thereby adapt to current and future occupational and educational trends.

Blue Hills Regional provides an education that enables students either to obtain employment upon graduation or to advance to further educational opportunities. Blue Hills Regional endeavors to go beyond skills training, providing each student with a comprehensive education that includes higher-level thinking skills, problem-solving skills, and the theoretical basis that underlies various technologies.

Blue Hills Regional also strives to promote the development of good citizenship among students, while reinforcing values such as respect for the worth of each individual, respect for craftsmanship, and respect for the common welfare of a democratic society. Citizenship is promoted through formal instruction, and through student-oriented extracurricular activities that offer intellectual and social interaction among peers.

CROSS REF: MSC Policy A-11  
Original Adoption: October 5, 2005

## **RELATIONS WITH HOME SCHOOLS**

The following procedures 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. Parent or guardian must provide information indicating his/ her competency to teach;
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;
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. Parent or guardian must demonstrate that the home school proposal fulfills the requirements of M.G.L. 71:1, in that the instruction will equal in thoroughness and efficiency and in the progress made therein of that in the Milton Public Schools.
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 parent or gaurdian. 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 in order to ensure educational progress and the 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 have been completed

Parents or guardians 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)

CROSS REF:        IHBG

REC'D: NESDEC  
Original Adoption: October 5, 2005

## RELATIONS WITH NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

### I - GENERAL

In accordance with M.G.L. c. 76, § 1, the Milton School Committee (the 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.

Acting reasonably and in good faith in carrying out its statutory responsibilities to approve a private school, the Committee bears no legal responsibility and/or assumes no liability for any actions of the private school. **Further Milton School Committee approval is neither an evaluation of program quality nor an endorsement of any particular school.**

### II - PROCESS AND CRITERIA FOR INITIAL APPROVAL OF A PRIVATE SCHOOL

After obtaining approval and the certifications/recommendations outlined in sections A, B, and C below the School Committee will consider the application for approval of a private school in full.

The application review period from initial receipt of the application to issuance of a School Committee decision shall be expected to be approximately 12 months in length.

#### A. Academic program

1. The Milton Public Schools Superintendent (Superintendent) shall maintain a list of reputable private school accreditation organizations. If a proposed school can demonstrate accreditation through one of those organizations, approval of its program of studies shall be recommended by the Superintendent.

OR

2. If a proposed school cannot demonstrate accreditation then the School Committee shall direct that the Superintendent ( in conjunction with other members of his/her administration and/or MPS staff), or an outside consultant, or any combination thereof at its discretion, to review the proposed curriculum and educational plan to ensure that the proposed curriculum equals that of the Milton Public Schools in thoroughness, efficiency, and progress made. Specifically, the Superintendent, the engaged Consultant, or both shall ensure that

- a. The curriculum is equivalent to that offered in the MPS generally and, specifically in the following instructional areas:
  - i.) history and social science
  - ii.) mathematics
  - iii.) science and technology
  - iv.) English
  - v.) foreign languages
  - vi.) the arts
  - vii.) physical education
- b. Educational materials, including textbooks, individual educational materials, and computers/other technology are adequate.
- c. School staffing is appropriate, "thorough and efficient" based upon
  - i.) teacher qualifications
  - ii.) adequate student/teacher ratio
  - iii.) regular evaluation of staff
  - iv.) the school principal reviews criminal offender record information (CORI) of current and prospective employees and volunteers, as required by law
- d. Student learning time is adequate and there is sufficient length of the school year, length school day, and hours of instruction in each subject.
- e. Student performance is assessed periodically and such assessment evaluates students' skills, competencies, and knowledge and documents their progress.

## **B. Administration and Administrative procedures**

1. The Milton Public Schools Superintendent (Superintendent) shall maintain a list of reputable private school accreditation organizations. If a proposed school can demonstrate accreditation through one of those organizations approval of its administration and administrative procedures shall be recommended by the Superintendent.

OR

2. If a proposed school cannot demonstrate accreditation then the Superintendent, or the engaged Consultant, or both shall require documentation to ensure that
  - a. School Administration organizational structure is clearly defined and facilitates its objectives.
  - b. Record keeping by the school is adequate, including
    - i. An adequate system of student attendance, health, discipline, and academic records
    - ii. The student records are kept in a secure and organized manner that is consistent with federal and state student record laws to the extent applicable.
    - iii. The school maintains and timely provides transcripts in response to requests of students and former students in accordance with G.L. c. 71, § 34A.
    - iv. The school is prepared to efficiently transfer transcripts of all students and former students to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and/or other schools should it cease operation, in accordance with G.L. c. 71, § 34G.
  - c. The proposed school has appropriate legal status, such as:
    - i. copies of the articles of incorporation and the certification of tax exempt status.

- d. The school has a financially solvent business model.
- e. The school has reasonably anticipated the need for certain services, such as nursing care, guidance programs, and counseling programs.
- f. The school has an appropriate discipline policy.

**C. Physical Plant**

The following must be obtained in order to operate:

- i.) Certificate of Occupancy
- ii.) Fire inspection
- iii.) Safety inspection
- iv.) Elevator inspection, if applicable
- v.) Compliance with lead paint poisoning prevention (for children under 6 years old)
- vi.) Compliance with other applicable federal and state health and safety standards (e.g., PCB, asbestos inspections, handicap accessibility)
- vii.) Copies of valid safety and health inspection certificates

**III - PROCESS AND CRITERIA FOR ONGOING APPROVAL OF A PRIVATE SCHOOL**

**A. Academic program**

- 1. Private Schools that are Accredited by a MPS Recognized Accreditation Agency shall be granted ongoing approval on the basis of this accreditation.
- 2. Private Schools that are not accredited by a MPS Recognized Accreditation Agency are strongly encouraged to seek accreditation by a MPS recognized accreditation agency. In the absence of such accreditation, the Superintendent may require such evidence and information as he/she deems necessary to ensure conformity with General Law.

#### **IV - REAPPLICATION**

If the application for a proposed school is denied based upon deficiency/deficiencies in sections II A.) or II B.) above, reapplication may be made in four months.

If the application for a proposed school is denied based upon deficiency/deficiencies in section II C.) reapplication may be made upon remedy of the deficiency/deficiencies.

#### **V - FEE**

A school applying for initial approval under this policy shall be charged a reasonable fee for the services provided herein. This fee may be modified from time to time by the School Committee.

1st Reading: June 8, 2016

2nd Reading: August 24, 2016

**LD**

**RELATIONS WITH COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (STUDENT OBSERVERS)**

The opportunity to develop closer communication with neighboring colleges and universities has always been an objective of the Milton Public Schools. Therefore, programs whereby students from colleges and universities are able to visit our schools are encouraged. However, to insure that those visitations will be productive for both the students and the Milton Public Schools, procedures for the regulation of such visits shall be established.

The same procedures that apply to students from colleges and universities shall also be applicable to students from other high schools.

REC'D: NESDEC

Original Adoption: October 5, 2005

**STUDENT TEACHING AND INTERNSHIPS**

The School Committee encourages the administration to cooperate with teacher-training institutions in the placement of student teachers in the Milton Public Schools. All initial arrangements with the colleges and universities will be subject to School Committee approval.

The School 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 Milton Public Schools 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 School Committee's policies.

Original Adoption: October 5, 2005