

## OPERATIONAL GOALS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

P7203

The School Committee is responsible to the people of Westford. The School Committee's current decisions will influence the course of education in the schools for years to come. The School Committee and each of its members must look to the future and to the needs of all people more than the average citizen finds necessary. This requires a comprehensive perspective and long-range planning in addition to attention to immediate problems.

The School Committee's primary responsibility is to establish those purposes, programs, and procedures that will best produce the educational achievement needed by the students. The School Committee is charged with accomplishing this while also being responsible for wise management of resources available to the school. The School Committee must fulfill these responsibilities by functioning primarily as a legislative body to formulate and adopt policy, by selecting an executive officer to implement policy, and by evaluating the results. It must carry out its functions openly, while seeking the comments of the public, students, and staff in its decision making process.

In accordance with these principles, the School Committee will seek to achieve the following:

1. Establish policies and make decisions on the basis of declared educational philosophy and goals. All decisions made by the School Committee will be made with priority given to the purposes set forth, most crucial of which is the optimal learning of the children enrolled in the schools.
2. Maintain two-way communications with the school community and the Town of Westford. The public will be kept informed of the progress and problems of the school. Citizens will be urged to bring their aspirations and feelings about the schools to the attention of the School Committee, which they have chosen to represent them in the management of the schools.
3. Act as a truly representative body for members of the community in matters involving public education. The School Committee recognizes that ultimate responsibility for public education rests with the state, but that the individual School Committee has been assigned specific authority through state law. The School Committee will not relinquish any of this authority since it believes that decision-making control over the children's learning should be in the hands of local citizens as much as possible.

Westford Public Schools Policy References:  
P7109 – New Member Orientation

Policy Adopted: April 9, 2001  
Policy Reviewed:  
Policy Revised:

WESTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Westford, Massachusetts 01886