

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 district 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 districts, 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.

SOURCE: MASC – Reviewed 2022

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

NOTE: Policies under this category and its subcategories are usually specific in naming the cooperatives, collaborative, and special agencies with which the school district is associated to provide special services and programs.

RELATIONS WITH NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

Private Schools

Background: In order to educate students of compulsory school age in Massachusetts, a private school, including a school with a religious affiliation, must obtain the approval of the school committee of the city or town in which the school is located. Massachusetts General Law c 76, § 1, states the following:

...school committees shall approve a private school when satisfied that the instruction in all the studies required by law equals in thoroughness and efficiency, and in the progress made therein, that the public schools in the same town; but shall not withhold such approval on account of religious teaching...

A private school located in a town is required to seek approval from the school committee of that town, whether or not children from the town attend the school. A school committee's approval means that Massachusetts children attending the private school may do so without violation of the compulsory attendance law. School committee approval is neither an evaluation of program quality nor an endorsement of any particular school. The decision to enroll a child in, or to withdraw a child from, a particular private school is one that parents/guardians must make. In addition to Lincoln Public Schools Policy LBC, the "Advisory on Approval of Massachusetts Private Schools Pursuant to Mass. Gen. Laws c. 76 §1" provides additional guidance for both the Lincoln School Committee and the applicant. (<http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/advisory/100207privateschool.html>)

Policy: In assessing the initial application of a private school for approval, the School Committee will require and confirm that the following information is up to date:

1. Certificate of Occupancy
2. Fire Inspection
3. Safety Inspection (building and outdoor facilities)
4. Elevator inspection, if applicable
5. Compliance with lead paint poisoning prevention (for children under 6)
6. Compliance with other applicable federal and state health and safety standards

In addition, the Committee will require the private school to provide a proposal that includes information about the following:

1. Population to be Served: admissions criteria and school enrollment projections
2. School Staff: Teacher qualifications; student/teacher ratio; plan for faculty/staff evaluation; compliance with criminal offender record information (CORI) law
3. Curriculum: The curriculum offered is "equivalent" to that offered in the local schools in terms of the following instructional areas: mathematics, science and technology, history and social science, English, foreign languages, the arts, and physical education
4. Student Learning Time and Performance Assessment
5. Organizational Structure of the Administration

6. Records: Plans for maintaining and securing student records
7. Student Services: How the school will provide pupil personnel services for all students (i.e. health care procedures, guidance and counseling, discipline policy)
8. Evidence of Financial Solvency

Following the initial approval of the private school, the School Committee shall establish, in collaboration with the private school, a schedule and structure for periodic review. The School Committee may include conditions that prompt a review such as a significant change in the private school's location, change in accreditation status, grade offerings, enrollment, or population to be served. If included in the review plan, it will be the responsibility of the private school to notify the School Committee of such changes

In accordance with Massachusetts General Law, the private school shall notify the School Committee of its intention to close.

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

Adopted at School Committee Meeting of December 1, 2016

SOURCE: Lincoln

RELATIONS WITH EDUCATION RESEARCH AND SERVICE CENTERS

The Lincoln Public School system is interested in supporting research which improves instruction and provides us with new information about children's learning. At the same time, requests to use the schools for research need careful screening to insure minimum disruption of the School program and to protect the rights of students, families, and faculty. The following procedures are to be followed in reviewing research proposals:

1. Written research proposals are to be sent to the Office of the Superintendent accompanied by a letter requesting the District's participation.
2. The letter requesting support should contain:
 - a. the overall purpose, essential questions or working thesis;
 - b. the number of students needed and at what grade level;
 - c. the amount of time per student needed and when students would be interviewed;
 - d. the time period of the study;
 - e. other time requirements for faculty, administrators and staff;
 - f. a copy of the letter to be sent home requesting parent/guardian permission for student participation;
 - g. additional details on those tasks in which students would be engaged and if tasks require removal from the classroom;
 - h. how the results of the study are to be shared with the administration, faculty, parents/guardians and students; and
 - i. where appropriate, demonstration that the project has been approved by their university research governing body.
3. The Superintendent will arrange for the research proposal and other information to be circulated and reviewed by Administrators.
4. If the Administrators feel the proposal has merit and can be pursued without too much disruption, they will discuss the District's participation with the appropriate group of faculty.

Parental/guardian permission will be obtained before a student is allowed to participate in a study. All research activity is constrained by the state and federal legislation on confidentiality of student records including de-identification of student data. The Lincoln Public School System expects to receive a copy of the final research report.

LEGAL REF.: Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment; Family and Educational Rights and Privacy Act

Approved by Administrators December 3, 1981

Approved at School Committee Meeting of December 7, 1981

Revised at School Committee Meeting of May 6, 1985

Revised at School Committee Meeting of December 13, 2018

SOURCE: Lincoln

Lincoln Public Schools

STUDENT TEACHING AND INTERNSHIPS

The Committee encourages the administration to cooperate with teacher-training institutions in the placement of student teachers in the school district. 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 district will be given the privilege of interviewing and accepting or rejecting individual candidates for student teaching and internships.

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

SOURCE: MASC – Reviewed 2022