

SCHOOL-COMMUNITY RELATIONS GOALS

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The board believes that responsible management of the school district requires that current laws, standards, attitudes, and philosophies of education be presented to the community on a continuing basis. The board also recognizes that as elected representatives of the people it must consider the needs and desires of the community in establishing educational policy. In an effort to ensure and enhance the possibilities for excellence in the education of our children, the board presents and endorses this statement of policy on school and community relations because of its conviction that (a) the public schools belong in every sense to the people who created them by consent, and support them by taxation; (b) the schools are only as strong as the intelligent and informed support of the people of the community, and never any stronger; and (c) the support of the people must be based upon their knowledge of their understanding about, and their participation in the aims and efforts of the public schools.

The board therefore reaffirms and declares its design and intent:

1. To keep the citizens of the district regularly and thoroughly informed through all available channels of communication on the policies, programs, problems, and planning of the school system, and to carry out this policy through its own efforts and the office of the Superintendent of Schools.
2. To invite the advice and counsel of the people of the school district at each open meeting except joint meetings with other public bodies and meetings of the Board where the sole agenda item is a personnel matter pursuant to NCGS §115C-325 to be discussed in closed session and requiring a vote of the Board in open session. At each open meeting, except those two exceptions set forth above, the Board shall hold open forum to offer citizens an opportunity to express their views.
3. To solicit the sound thinking and studied counsels of the people through advisory committees selected from the community and appointed to consider problems which vitally affect the future of our children.
4. To authorize school-age child care centers in the schools of the district. The purpose of this practice is to support employees and the community in providing safe educational and recreational programs for their children after school.

Members of the staff are encouraged to take an active part of the Orange County Schools District. The school and community should not be considered separate and apart, but as working as a unified whole in the educational process.