

THE PEOPLE AND THEIR SCHOOL DISTRICT

A Declaration of Accountability

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

The School Committee is mindful that the people are the ultimate governors of public education and that the School Committee is directly accountable to the people through the elective process. The Committee also believes, however, that accountability is a shared responsibility involving students, parents, teachers, support staff, administrators, the Superintendent of Schools, and the general public, as well as the School Committee. The Committee, therefore, asserts these beliefs and expectations:

- Students should be educated 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 (within the limits of each student's abilities) the objectives of each learning experience.
- The Superintendent should hold teachers and other employees accountable for working with diligent effort and with intelligence and imagination in achieving the objectives directly related to their job responsibilities.
- The School Committee should appoint the most capable person available to hold the position of Superintendent of Schools and should hold him/her accountable for providing dynamic and creative professional leadership and counsel in all aspects of the school program.
- The School Committee should hold itself and its staff accountable for operating in accordance with the highest ethical standards.
- The School Committee also should 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 the public on the School Committee and in the State Legislature and U.S. Congress; and for providing the resources necessary for the School Committee and staff to accomplish the publicly-endorsed goals and objectives of the school system.

Adopted: 1988