

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN DECISIONMAKING

A primary task of the school is to create a stimulating learning climate which develops a spirit of inquiry and encourages active involvement of students in their own education. This climate is created when students work together cooperatively with schools' staffs.

The Board believes that students should:

1. Be free to express their own opinions, recognizing that every right and privilege has corresponding responsibility;
2. Be encouraged to participate in establishing course goals, in improving courses of study, and planning classroom activities;
3. Be involved in developing school policies, rules and regulations, and in establishing corresponding penalties for infractions;
4. Be encouraged to participate in student government organizations that provide students with a concerted voice in school affairs, and to participate in a variety of extra-class activities to broaden their educational experiences; and be involved in the planning of assembly programs and school-sponsored forums of interest;
5. At the secondary level may be given the opportunity, at or near the end of each school year or semester, to participate in evaluating teachers whose classes they attended during that time;
6. Recognize that the effort to improve the school system is continuous, and that student concerns are taken seriously;
7. Recognize that any adult in the school, if approached as a friend, can be expected to cooperate in seeking ways to make the school better;
8. Be warned that clearly worthwhile changes sometimes come only with frustrating slowness;
9. Be advised that some procedures have been established by law and are outside the control of teachers and administrators; and
10. Attempt to make criticism constructively, that is, to recognize that the school exists for the purpose of helping young people, and with the goal in mind, alternatives to existing practices will be considered.

The Board recognizes that with increasing age and maturity, the level and quality of student participation will increase, but asserts that age shall be no bar to student involvement in decision-making.

NOTE: See also RSA 189:1-C regarding high school student participation on School Board.

LONDONDERRY SCHOOL BOARD
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