

## SECTION L: EDUCATION AGENCY RELATIONS

	<b>Page</b>	<b>Adoption</b>
1. Education Agency Relations Goals	2	September 2008
2. Relations with Non-Public Schools	3	January 2009
3. Relations with Education Research Agencies	5	September 2008

## 1. EDUCATION AGENCY RELATIONS GOALS

It is the general goal of the district to support the educational endeavors of other institutions whose goals are compatible with those of the district. In its relationship to other educational institutions, the school district will strive to stand as a partner and colleague in such a way as described below.

All education agencies interested in working with Beverly Public Schools must certify that their educational and non-academic programs, activities and employment opportunities are offered without regard to race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or any other class or characteristic protected by law.

### Post-High School Institutions

1. The school district will utilize the resources of post-high school institutions for the development of its staff, consistent with the educational programs and goals of the district.
2. The school district will cooperate with post high school institutions in selected areas of research and experimentation which have the potential to increase the effectiveness of teacher preparation or staff development and/or which directly improve the local instructional program.
3. The school district will share the responsibility for preparation of teachers and other school workers with institutions of higher education.

### Other School Districts and Organizations

1. The school district will work cooperatively with other school districts in selected programs that can be better done in cooperation than by single districts acting alone.
2. The school district will assume appropriate responsibility for improving the climate for education in the state and nation, particularly with reference to expanding the fiscal base, providing for efficient expenditure of funds, and bringing about state or federal legislation that improves education or contributes to district goals.
3. The school district will cooperate with professional educational organizations recognized by the district as important forces for the improvement of education.
4. The school district will work cooperatively with other educational organizations when that work enhances the educational programs and goals of the district.

Adopted: May 19, 2004  
Revised: September 3, 2008

## 2. RELATIONS WITH NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### **Approval of Private Schools**

Under state law, any 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. In accordance with state recommended guidelines, the School Committee will approve the private school's application if the applicant meets the criteria and procedures established by the school district and the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval.

The approval function of the School Committee is fairly limited under state law. Acting reasonably and in good faith in carrying out its statutory responsibility, the School Committee and Beverly Public Schools, through their deliberations and votes on private school approval as well as in correspondence with interested parties about a particular private school, bear no responsibility or liability as a result of damages incurred by the private school or one of its students. The Superintendent of Schools shall establish and maintain approval criteria consistent with guidelines established by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Such criteria are available at the Office of the Superintendent and on the district website.

### **Application Process & Timelines**

The private school seeking School Committee approval shall make written request to the Superintendent of Schools. Such written request shall include evidence that the school meets the established criteria as well as a completed copy of the notification document required by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The Superintendent shall conduct a site visit and verify that all approval criteria have been met. In the case of approval of a private special education school, the Pupil Personnel Director shall also participate in the site visit and verification of approval criteria. Once the Superintendent has verified that the approval criteria have been met, the application shall be submitted to the School Committee at its next regularly scheduled meeting. A final vote of the School Committee shall be made at a regularly scheduled School Committee meeting no more than forty-five (45) days after this initial recommendation. Approval shall be by a two-thirds vote of the entire Committee.

If the school committee does not approve a private school, the private school may not operate as a school for Massachusetts students of compulsory school age for regular attendance purposes. G.L. c. 76, § 1, the Massachusetts compulsory school attendance law, requires private schools to obtain the prior approval of the local school committee. Thus, attendance by a Massachusetts student between the ages of 6 and 16 at a private school operating without such approval would not fulfill the requirements of the Massachusetts compulsory school attendance law, and the student would be considered truant. A private school that disputes the Committee's or Superintendent's decision may ask the School Committee to review the matter.

To ensure continued compliance with established criteria, the Superintendent shall conduct a review of approved private schools at least every ten years from the date of approval or as needed. In the event that not all criteria are being met, the Superintendent may continue approval for a reasonable period of time until substantial changes are made in the private school's program, at which point the private school must seek re-approval. As a condition of approval, private schools must agree to notify the Superintendent of any substantial change that relates to the approval criteria.

### **Public / Private Relationships**

It is the policy of Beverly Public Schools to implement all Massachusetts laws pertaining to public school/private school relationships and to maintain a clear and consistent line of communication with private schools located in the City of Beverly.

Private schools may expect to be notified of any changes in procedures regarding any of these areas:

1. Eligibility for transitional kindergarten

2. Kindergarten registration
3. Transportation eligibility and districting plans
4. No-School announcements
5. Grants
6. Instructional programs

They shall also be informed of times and dates on hearings on any matters related to these changes.

The committee recognizes that many worthwhile contributions are made to this community by parochial and other private schools. Therefore, it will cooperate with these schools in matters of mutual benefit when law does not expressly prohibit this cooperation.

**M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 4E; Chapter 46, Section 2; Chapter 71, Sections 34G, 48, 57 & 71D;  
Chapter 76, Section 1  
MA DESE Advisory on Approval of Massachusetts Private Schools October 2, 2007  
Massachusetts Special Education Regulations (603 CMR 28.00)  
Regulations on Program and Safety Standards for Approved Public or Private Day and  
Residential Special Education School Programs (603 C.M.R. 18.00)**

Adopted: June 16, 2004  
Revised: January 14, 2009

### 3. RELATIONS WITH EDUCATION RESEARCH AGENCIES

The School Committee recognizes the potential contribution of appropriate educational research to teaching and school administration, and will cooperate, to the extent possible, with colleges, universities and other recognized agencies to promote research that will:

1. Increase professional knowledge of teaching and learning processes and the social setting in which they operate.
2. Sharpen perception of instructional and administrative problems.
3. Establish instructional and management objectives.
4. Assess progress toward accomplishment of school system objectives.

The appropriateness of all requests involving research projects to be conducted in the public schools will be judged by the School Committee after they have been reviewed and recommended by the Superintendent and, as appropriate, building administrators, and/or program supervisors/directors.

To achieve the maximum mutual benefit to the research worker, to the school, and to the students, professional standards must be observed in all phases of the work. This is a mutual responsibility of the Superintendent and school to protect the self-esteem of the students and the reputation of the school system. The possibility of harm from over-generalization or misinterpretation of test results or observations must be kept in mind. This possibility can be guarded against by adequate research design.

The decision to involve students, teachers or other employees in any research project shall be based on the following:

1. The objectives of the research should be clearly stated and the design should produce valid and reliable results that will then be made available to the public schools.
2. The research should be expected to contribute to the improvement of education or the general welfare of children.
3. The privacy of those involved in any research project must be protected. The confidentiality of records will be maintained at all times. Furthermore, data derived from school records, interviews, or questionnaires that have a potential for invasion of privacy of students or their families or staff members may not be used unless advance written authorization has been given by the staff member or student (or parent or guardian, as appropriate) even though the information will be collected and reported under conditions of anonymity.
4. Research proposals should be of sufficient scope and depth to justify the time and effort of students and staff members. Using the time of teachers and students in any research activity is an investment by the school system that should increase the effectiveness of the educational effort.
5. Curriculum activities must not be interrupted unless there is a clear significance that the research project benefits the educational program of our schools.
6. Projects involving student researchers must have prior written approval by a faculty member of the institution in which the student is enrolled. The faculty member must have direct responsibility for the student's research.

All education research agencies interested in working with Beverly Public Schools must certify that their educational and non-academic programs, activities and employment opportunities are offered without regard to race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or any other class or characteristic protected by law.

Adopted: April 14, 2004  
Revised: September 3, 2008