

## THE PEOPLE AND THEIR SCHOOL DISTRICT

The public schools belong to the people. The people govern the public schools through elective representatives at the various levels of government. In addition to the election of state and federal representatives, who established throughout the state legislature and the United States Congress the framework of law within which schools operate, the people elect a local school board to represent them and to determine local educational plans and policies, along with the establishment of publicly endorsed educational goals and objectives. The Independence School Board functions as an agency of the public within this framework.

The Board is mindful that the people are the ultimate governors of public education and that the Board is directly accountable to the people through the elective process. The Board also believes that accountability is a shared responsibility involving students, teachers, other employees, the Superintendent of Schools, and the people themselves as well as the school board. The Board, therefore, asserts these beliefs and operations:

- 1) Students should be trained at home and by the school in order that they will learn to hold themselves accountable for their lives, actions and decisions as maturing members of a democratic society.
- 2) Teachers should hold students accountable for achieving within the limits of their students' abilities the objectives of each learning experience.
- 3) 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 stated job responsibilities.
- 4) The Board should appoint the most capable person available to hold the position of Superintendent and should hold him or her accountable for providing creative professional leadership and counsel in all aspects of the school district program.
- 5) The Board should also hold itself accountable for carrying out its mandates to plan, to make policy and to lead in identification of goals and objectives and the resources necessary for their achievement.
- 6) The public should hold itself accountable for maintaining a vigorous interest in and concern for and constructive criticism of the schools, and by electing the most able men and women available to represent them on the school board and in the state and national legislative halls. Furthermore, the public should provide the resources necessary for the Board and employees to accomplish the publicly endorsed goals and objectives of the school district.

Reaffirmed April 25, 1988

Reaffirmed October 25, 1993

Reaffirmed Annually each September from 1994 to 2011

Reaffirmed February 6, 2018