

STUDENT ASPIRATIONS

The Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D. School Committee believes that among the most fundamental concerns to be addressed by the schools - in concert with parents and the community at large - is providing a supportive environment in which students may develop appropriate personal aspirations. Each student, regardless of his/her level of academic achievement, deserves to feel a sense of self-worth and belonging, qualities that are most likely to develop when the adults in a student's life express caring, concern and support.

The Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D. School Committee believes that student aspirations will be affected positively by focusing on the effectiveness of several aspects of the school program and environment. First, the schools must keep as a high priority the development of a nurturing school climate. In large ways and in small, our schools should convey the message that the students are cared for and appreciated. As stated above, the most important factor in a healthy school climate is the individual contacts between adults and students. The School Committee expects all school personnel to demonstrate a commitment to providing a supportive and caring school climate. The Superintendent shall ensure that this policy is reviewed with all school personnel at the beginning of each school year.

Second, the relationship between the home and the school must be cultivated and strengthened through frequent contact and sharing of information. This communication should extend beyond the periodic reports to the parents regarding academic achievement and include such areas as homework, social adjustment and out-of-school enrichment activities. The school and the home should be seen as close working partners in the process of nurturing children and preparing them for their lives beyond home and school.

Third, the guidance programs in all schools should facilitate the student's adjustment to the school environment and help prepare the student for career and educational choices they will meet in the future. By working with individuals and groups on human relationships, choice making and understanding the role of education in one's life, the school counselor plays an important role in ensuring that the students' educational experiences are basically positive.

The Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D. School Committee supports the efforts of the University Aspirations Project and the Maine Aspirations Compact in providing information, both research oriented and practical, that is designed to address student aspirations. Moreover, the School Committee supports the goals, shared by the aspirations programs, of raising the personal expectations of students; improving the academic performance of students; and expanding the educational, career and personal choices of students.