

Board Policy

The People and ESBOCES

The public schools belong to the people, who exercise their proprietorship through the elective process. They elect federal and state representatives who establish through the Congress and the Legislature the framework of law within which the public schools operate.

The people also elect local school boards. These local school boards, in turn, elect persons to serve on boards of cooperative educational services.

The Board is mindful that the people are the ultimate governors of public education and that ESBOCES is accountable to the people in the area it serves through their local boards of education. This Board also recognizes that it is one step removed, in comparison with local boards of education, from the public it serves. It must depend on local boards for transferring to it the mandate of the people as this pertains to its membership and the services and programs it provides. Therefore, ESBOCES shall seek to:

1. establish and maintain an effective two-way communication with all local school districts at the Board and administrative level;
2. involve district boards and district administrators in decision-making processes to as great an extent as possible; and
3. fully inform district boards and the District Superintendents of ESBOCES activities and programs.

ESBOCES shall also maintain two-way direct channels of communication with the public through its informational services and through various advisory councils. It shall also solicit the thinking and counsel of the adult students and the parents of children whom it serves directly.