

DISTANCE LEARNING

The Board of Education is committed to optimizing student learning and instruction and considers distance learning to be a valuable tool to accomplish this educational goal. The Board, therefore, encourages the utilization of distance learning technology to provide and expand educational opportunities for students, staff and the community. It is the Board's intent to use distance learning opportunities for the enhancement of the educational program. The Board will not use this technology to replace teachers or subject them to a reduction in force.

The Board recognizes the cooperative effort between the staffs of BOCES, the community college, telephone companies and school districts to create the Distance Learning Network and to develop a facility at the Town of Webb Schools to allow students, staff and community members to participate in the various opportunities available. The Board encourages this cooperative effort to maximize the use of this "smart" classroom and the valuable educational opportunities which the technology can provide. The Board also encourages the cooperative efforts of faculty and administration in utilizing distance learning technology by receiving as well as by transmitting courses and other programs.

In addition, the Board considers distance learning to be an opportunity for sharing services and providing opportunities for staff and community members above and beyond the scope of the regular school day. The Board recognizes this area of community awareness and intends to make available, within scheduling constraints, other educational opportunities of interest through the receipt and transmission of educational programs through the Distance Learning Network.

In order to facilitate such uses as outlined above, the Superintendent shall establish rules and regulations governing the use and security of the district's distance learning classroom. The Board encourages a cooperative effort on the part of faculty and administration in developing these procedures, recognizing that procedures for many comparable classroom uses already exist. The distance learning classroom, although unique in some ways, is not substantively different. However, due to its technology-based nature, distance learning will provide new areas of responsibility for consideration.

APPROVED: BOARD OF EDUCATION

January 7, 1997

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