## **Community Relations**

## **YOUTH SERVICES**

The Mendocino County Board of Education perceives that increasing numbers of children live in poverty and neglect. Children who come to school with unmet physical, social and emotional needs are unable to devote themselves to learning. Our county's future depends upon these children becoming literate, independent and productive citizens.

The County Board realizes that local schools alone cannot meet our children's complex individual needs. The schools have, therefore, a legitimate interest in cooperating with public and private agencies that provide day care, nutrition and health services for children. The victims of homelessness, exploitation, substance abuse and child abuse may need multiple services, which should be coordinated in order to avoid gaps, duplication or delay. Schools, local government, businesses, foundations and charitable organizations all must work together to improve conditions for our community's youth.

All agreements with other agencies to coordinate services or share resources shall be in writing. MCOE may establish joint powers agreements or memorandums of understanding, when feasible, to formalize the responsibilities and liabilities of all parties in a collaborative activity.

Children must have a right to have their physical, emotional and intellectual needs met. The County Board supports public policies, which respect children by meeting their needs. The County Board will advocate for local, state and national public and private policies, legislation and programs designed to provide or better coordinate services that help children make the most of their educational opportunities.

Legal Reference:

<u>EDUCATION CODE</u> 1040 et seq. Duties and powers of boards 1240 et seq. Duties of county superintendents

Policy adopted: September 16, 1991 Revised: December 11, 2017