INCLUSION POLICY

It is the policy of the Red Hook Central School District Board of Education to educate all children in the least restrictive environment. In order to achieve this goal, the Red Hook Central School District will provide adequate:

1. time for staff developments;
2. time for planning;
3. administrative support; and
4. resources to foster programming for children with intensive educational needs

We believe that the implementation of an inclusion model should be put into place over time and only after adequate training and support is made available. A district plan for the development and implementation of required training will be prepared by the Director of Curriculum/Special Services. Staff development activities will be provided for a three (3) year period beginning in the 1993-94 school year. The plan will also outline other require areas of support.

We believe that children who have been identified by the Committee on Special Education are best prepared for the challenges of like by being included in our regular school programs and educated in age-appropriate settings to the maximum extent possible. All children learn best when they are respected as students, with potential and individual needs.

The Committee on Special Education will make a determination on each classified child considered for inclusion on an individual basis. The Committee will decide if each child considered for inclusion can benefit, with appropriate accommodations, from an included educational program. The Committee will then make its recommendations to the Board of Education.

We further believe that all children can learn with adaptations and modifications as needed and that the total education of all students is the shared responsibility of the student, that school, the family, and the community. With support and caring, all students will experience and learn both independence and interdependence.

Finally, we believe we have a duty to instill in all, a compassion for others and tolerance for differences.

1st Reading 7/14/93
2nd Reading & Adoption 7/20/93

Approved by B.O.E. 5/10/89