

## **Joy D. Rice School**

### Racial, Ethnic and Economic Isolation

Connecticut law requires that school districts provide educational opportunities for their students to interact with students and teachers from diverse racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds. This may occur through interdistrict or interschool programs, distance learning, or other experiences. Our schools are geographically situated in a comparatively remote part of the state. Students of diverse backgrounds are hampered in accessing programs and/or activities by the time and cost of transportation. Attracting qualified minority staff to work in our schools is very difficult. It is a challenge to attract staff from diverse backgrounds into a homogeneous culture. Many people who were raised in this community continue to make their homes here and young adults decide to remain in Winsted to raise their children.

A strong School-to-Career component enables students to investigate various courses of interest and explore numerous diverse businesses within the region. The program enables students to look to the future and see beyond the current circumstances in which they live. All students investigate cultures of the world in both Civics and World History classes to understand how these cultures impact the global workplace. School wide rules and consistent reporting practices and responses to infractions to school rules involved faculty. The approach was to increase pro-social behaviors and to provide the basis for equitable responses to students regardless of differences.

Winchester Alternate High School will increase acceptance of and respect for diversity by providing an atmosphere where student, faculty and community members feel safe and have an increased respect for each other and for social issues.

### Supplemental School Information

The Winchester Alternate High School included the following as integral components of its program:

- Celebration of Achievement Awards – given at graduation
- Participation of teachers on district-wide curriculum committees
- Monitoring student behavior and progress toward explicit individual goals through a level system
- Publication of a yearbook by students
- Four graduates will be continuing their education at Northwestern Community College
- Successful participation in a woodworking and art class at the middle school
- Increased parental involvement
- Students participated in Outward Bound type activities