

BOARD POLICY DEVELOPMENT

In its responsibility to ensure the successful and effective functioning of our schools, the Board of Education recognizes that its main role is the establishment of broad goals and the development and adoption of policy. The Board further recognizes that it should not normally involve itself in the day to day administration of the school system because such details are both incompatible with the leadership role entrusted to the Board and best left to the professionals who staff the district.

Board members, school officials and employees, parents, students and community members are encouraged to participate in the initiation and development of new Board policies.

All policy proposals and suggested amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Superintendent of Schools, briefly describing the proposal and why it is needed. The Superintendent may designate a staff member or members to conduct independent research, to evaluate the information within the proposal, to maintain a reference file for the Board on all such proposals, and to draft policy proposals.

Such policies must also be consistent with both the Federal and State Constitutions and with all Federal and State laws and regulations.

Through the systematic, orderly and judicious development of written policy, the Board will be able to:

1. demonstrate to the community that it is both exercising effective leadership and operating the district's schools in an efficient and businesslike manner;
2. devote valuable time to the identification of major directions and to the establishment of long range goals;
3. initiate change rather than react to events;
4. free itself from the day-to-day administration of our schools;
5. define clearly the respective roles and functions of the Board and the Superintendent of Schools as the Chief Executive Officer;
6. provide continuity and direction in the event of major changes in staff and Board personnel;
7. establish a clear legal record which is binding on students, staff and the Board alike; and
8. ensure consistency, uniformity and fairness in the administration of our schools.

The Board recognizes that regular policy review is essential in an age of changing needs, conditions, issues and objectives. Policy development, whether it results in revisions, additions, or deletions to the Board policy manual, is an ongoing process. Therefore, the Board may request suggestions and opinions from citizens, students and staff. The Board shall bear in mind those individuals whom the policy will affect.

Cross-ref: 1410, Complaints about Policies

Ref: Education Law §§1604(9); 1709; 1804; 2503; 2554; 2801
General Municipal Law §806
Public Employees Fair Employment Law, Civil Service Law §200 et seq.
Freedom of Information Law, Public Officers Law §§87 et seq.
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g

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