

## **THE SCHOOL BOARD: THE ROLE AND PURPOSE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The Board's responsibility is to establish education policy and confer upon the Superintendent the necessary authority to assure effective administration of such policy.

The Board is charged with carrying out the duties imposed upon it by the Legislature, (§1709 Education Law). It is also the responsibility of the Board to ascertain the representative wishes of the community with respect to the education of its children and the operation of its School District. But, it is equally the responsibility of the Board, after carefully weighing all relevant factors, to make decisions, duly realizing that the action of the Board may not be equally pleasing to all segments of the community. The best interests of all the students and the resources of the School District guide the Board in its deliberations.

In giving direction to the Superintendent, the Board acts as a whole through consensus. The Superintendent makes necessary staff assignments to carry out the wishes of the Board. The Superintendent provides the Board with recommendations, facts, and figures to assist in its decision-making role.

The School District is an independent unit of government and exists as a corporate entity quite separate and apart from other units of local government.

The policy of the State originally was "to establish a Board elected directly by the people, separate from other governing boards, and to place the control of the public schools within the jurisdiction of that body unhampered as to details of administration and not subject to review by any other board or tribunal as to acts performed in good faith.

1. Since the original policy as stated above, much legislation regarding financial aid, teachers, students, etc. has been passed. The School District now derives its powers from the provisions made by the State Legislature, and therefore, it is subject to the restrictions of the Legislature, and such agencies as are designated by the Legislature.
2. The Board believes in the wholesomeness of local control of education. However, it also recognizes that the power to interpret the intent of Federal, State and local statutes and regulations is a power of the courts.

Education is a State function:

The Federal Constitution provides that education is a function of the State.

1. By custom, the State has permitted the development of provisions for education locally.

2. The School Board represents not only the people of the School District, but also the people of the entire State in its relationship to the local school system.

The State has responsibility for the establishment and maintenance of certain minimum standards in the areas of length of day, length of year, teacher salaries, teacher certification, curriculum, age of entrance, School buildings, etc.

1. The public is protected against dishonesty, malfeasance, or misfeasance by the use of certain inspectorial functions such as audit of accounts, evaluations, supervisory visits, etc.

APPROVED: BOARD OF EDUCATION

DATE: June 14, 1988