



## **201 LEGAL STATUS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD**

### **I. PURPOSE**

State law and the Minnesota Constitution give the school board the authority to oversee and manage the school district. The board is responsible for carrying out the district’s mission with care, sound judgment, and a commitment to providing a high-quality public education. This policy outlines the school board’s authority, duties, and responsibilities.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The school board is the governing body responsible for the care, management, and control of the district’s affairs. This responsibility includes all duties, and implied powers necessary to effectively operate the district.

Individual board members have no authority to act on behalf of the district unless expressly authorized by official board action. The board may act only as a body at properly noticed meetings. The district is not bound by statements, actions, or commitments made by individual board members unless specifically directed or approved by the school board.

For a complete list of statutory duties of school boards, please see the district's School Board Member Handbook.

### **III. DEFINITION**

“School board” means the governing body of the school district.

### **IV. ORGANIZATION AND MEMBERSHIP**

- A. The school board consists of seven elected members, each serving a four-year term, with elections occurring on even years, unless a vacancy occurs.
- B. The superintendent serves as a non-voting (ex officio) member, as provided by law.
- C. A majority of the elected members constitutes a quorum. The act of a majority of a quorum at a legally convened meeting is the act of the school board.

### **V. POWERS AND DUTIES**

- A. The school board has the authority to govern, manage, and control the district; to carry out its duties and responsibilities; and to conduct the business of the district. This authority includes powers expressly granted by statute as well as those reasonably implied and necessary to fulfill its responsibilities.
- B. The school board performs functions that are legislative, administrative, and quasi-judicial

in nature.

- C. The board provides governance and oversight to ensure every student has access to a high-quality, effective public education.
- D. Consistent with Minnesota law, the school board shall:
  - 1. Provide a free system of public education for every school-age child residing in the district;
  - 2. Establish the district's strategic direction and educational goals; approve instructional programs; and prescribe textbooks, instructional materials, and courses of study;
  - 3. Develop, adopt, and revise policies to govern the district and establish operational rules;
  - 4. Employ and evaluate a superintendent to manage the day-to-day operations of the district and implement board policy;
  - 5. Conduct official business at properly noticed regular or special meetings;
  - 6. Govern and monitor the district's business operations, finances, facilities, property and the overall welfare;
  - 7. Oversee financial resources, levy taxes as authorized by law, approve lawful expenditures, adopt an annual budget, and ensure the proper maintenance of school buildings;
  - 8. Approve contracts, authorize the employment and discharge of employees as provided by law, and enter into agreements necessary for district operations;
  - 9. Acquire, hold, lease, sell or exchange real property and equipment for school purposes;
  - 10. Act as a public corporation with authority to initiate, defend, and settle legal actions on behalf of the district;
  - 11. Provide for the transportation of students to and from school; and
  - 12. Procure insurance to protect the district, its officers, and employees against liability.
- E. The school board may:
  - 1. Provide library facilities, evening schools, adult education, summer school, or intersession programs;
  - 2. Enter into cooperative agreements with other school districts for educational services;

3. Lease rooms or buildings for school purposes;
4. Authorize community use of school facilities when such use does not interfere with school purposes;
5. Authorize cocurricular and extracurricular activities;
6. Accept bequests, donations, or gifts for lawful school purposes; and
7. Perform any other acts reasonably necessary or required for the governance and operation of the schools, consistent with law.

**Legal References:** *Minn. Stat. § 123A.22 (Cooperative Centers for Vocational Education)*  
*Minn. Stat. § 123B.02 (General Powers of Independent School Districts)*  
*Minn. Stat. § 123B.09 (Board of Independent School Districts)*  
*Minn. Stat. § 123B.14 (Officers of Independent School Districts)*  
*Minn. Stat. § 123B.23 (Liability Insurance; Officers and Employees)*  
*Minn. Stat. § 123B.49 (Co Curricular and Extracurricular Activities; Insurance)*  
*Minn. Stat. § 123B.51 (Schoolhouses and Sites; Use for School and Nonschool Purposes; Closings)*  
*Minn. Stat. § 123B.85 (Definition)*  
*Jensen v. Indep. Consol. Sch. Dist. No. 85, 160 Minn. 233, 199 N.W. 911 (1924)*

**Cross References:** *ISD 200 Policy 101 (Legal Status of the School District)*  
*ISD 200 Policy 202 (School Board Officers)*  
*ISD 200 Policy 203 (Operation of the School Board -Governing Rules)*  
*ISD 200 Policy 205 (Open Meetings and Closed Meetings)*

*Policy Reviewed:* 02.19.2026  
*Policy Adopted:* 06.28.2023  
*Policy Revised:* 06.28.2023