

## SCHOOL BOARD POWERS AND DUTIES

The Board of Education of the Waterloo Community School District, acting on behalf of the school district, shall have jurisdiction over school matters within the territory of the school district.

The Board is empowered to make policy for its own governance, for employees, for students and for school district facilities. The Board is also empowered to enforce its policies. The Board may, through its quasi-judicial power, conduct hearings and rule on issues and disputes confronting the school district.

The Board has these powers and all other powers expressly granted to it in federal and state law as well as the powers that can be reasonably implied from the express powers.

The Board is authorized to govern the school district which it oversees. The Board is entrusted with public funds and is responsible for overseeing the improvement of student outcomes, including student academic achievement and skill proficiency. As the governing Board of the school district, the Board has three duties to perform: legislative duty, executive duty and evaluative duty.

As a representative of the citizens of the school district community, the Board is responsible for legislating policy for the school district. As a policy making body, the Board has jurisdiction to enact policy with the force and effect of law for the management and operation of the school district.

It is the responsibility of the Board, under the Board's executive duty, to select its Chief Executive Officer, the Superintendent, to operate the school district on the Board's behalf. The Board delegates to the Superintendent its authority to carry out board policy, to formulate and carry out rules and regulations and to handle the administrative details in a manner which supports and is consistent with board policy.

The Board has a responsibility to review the education program's performance under its evaluative duty. The Board regularly reviews the education program and ancillary services. The review includes a careful study and examination of the facts, conditions and circumstances surrounding the amount of funds received or expended and the education program's ability to achieve the Board's educational philosophy for the school district.

The Board fulfills its quasi-judicial duties in serving as a neutral arbiter for hearings related to student expulsion proceedings and certain employment termination hearings and appeals. This important power was granted by the Iowa Legislature and cannot be delegated. To preserve the Board's neutrality in arbitrating student expulsion hearings or certain employment hearings and appeals, the Board shall not participate in any investigative practices or in establishing consequences prior to such hearings or appeals.

The Board can transact business which is legally binding on the District only when it is in regular or special session with a quorum present and all the actions recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Except in emergencies, the Board shall not take action on an issue prior to examining and evaluating all information available. The Superintendent shall be given an opportunity to examine information and make a recommendation prior to the Board's decision.

Once a policy statement has been established by the Board of Education, it becomes the responsibility of the Superintendent and the District's staff to execute.

Legal Ref.: Board of Directors of Independent School District of Waterloo v. Green, 259 Iowa 1260, 147N.W.2d 854 (1967).  
Iowa Code §§ 28E; 274.1-.2; 279.1, .8, .20; 280.12.  
281 I.A.C. 12.1(2); 12.3(2).

Cross Ref.: 106.0 School District Goals and Objectives  
108.0 Educational and Operational Planning  
200.1 School Board Legal Status  
217.2 Policy Adoption

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