

Formulation, Adoption, Amendment or Deletion of Policies

The development of sound educational policies is one of the primary duties of the Board of Education. Policies serve to promote democratic and responsive school governance and constitute a major method by which the Board exercises its leadership. Policies are guides for discretionary administrative action by the Superintendent of Schools and his/her staff. Policy development and revision should follow these principles:

1. Policies shall be given high priorities by the Board and by the Superintendent of Schools.
2. Many people at different levels shall be given opportunities to participate in development and review of policies.
3. Procedures for development and revision of policies shall be clear and well understood; participants shall know their roles and authority; lines of communication shall be observed.
4. Use of policies as guides to action shall be stressed at all organizational levels, and policy violations shall not be overlooked or condoned.
5. Policy effectiveness shall be monitored regularly by the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools, and by other staff members.
6. Board members and administrators shall guard against intrinsic problems of policies (rigidity and inflexibility, bureaucratic or insensitive administration of policy, etc.).

The Board of Education shall concern itself only with broad questions of the appropriate application of its policies and not with administrative details. The Board shall rely on the Superintendent of Schools to recommend policies for adoption and to administer policies enacted by the Board. The suggestion for a policy statement may also be submitted to the Chair of the Board's Policy Committee by any member of the Board or any member of the Bethany school community. Such policies shall be narrow enough to give the Superintendent clear guidance in the management of the school system, but broad enough to allow discretionary action where needed. Application of Board policies to the management of the school District is an administrative function to be performed by the Superintendent.

Procedure for Adoption, Amendment or Deletion of Board Policies

1. The policy committee shall present recommendations for revision, adoption or deletion of a policy statement at a regular Board meeting. No action shall be taken at this presentation meeting.
2. The Board shall act on proposed policies at regular meetings of the Board at which time amendments to the policy proposals may be made and the policies approved if the changes are not a departure from the essence of the policy proposal. If the proposed changes are major, a policy should be brought back for a second review at the next regular meeting with recommendation from the Board's policy committee. Proposed policy changes approved by majority vote of the Board shall take immediate effect.
3. For proposed policy statements, new or revised, because of changes or additions to Connecticut General Statutes or State Board of Education Regulations, approval may be given at the initial presentation.

BYLAWS OF THE BOARD

9311(b)

Formal adoption, amendment or deletion of policies shall be recorded in the minutes of the Board meeting. Only those written statements so adopted and recorded shall be regarded as official policies.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221

Bylaw adopted: September 9, 1991
Bylaw reviewed: February 11, 2004
Bylaw revised: March 10, 2004
Bylaw revised: February 10, 2016