

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

### SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNANCE - POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

The powers and duties of the Board of Education are enumerated in the Illinois School Code. The Board also functions within the framework of laws, court decisions, standards, and directives of the State Board of Education and similar mandates from the state and national levels of government.

The powers and duties of the School Board generally include:

1. Organizing the Board after each consolidated election by electing officers and establishing its regular meeting schedule and, thereafter, taking action during lawfully called meetings to faithfully fulfill the Board's responsibilities in accordance with State and federal law;
2. Formulating, adopting, and modifying Board policies, subject only to mandatory collective bargaining agreements and State and federal law;
3. Employing a Superintendent and other personnel, making employment decisions, dismissing personnel, including determining whether an employee has willfully or negligently failed to report an instance of suspected child abuse or neglect as required by 325 ILCS 5/, and establishing an equal employment opportunity policy that prohibits unlawful discrimination;
4. Directing, through policy, the Superintendent, in his or her charge of the District's administration;
5. Approving the annual budget, tax levies, major expenditures, payment of obligations, annual audit, and other aspects of the District's financial operation; and making available a statement of financial affairs as provided in State law;
6. Entering contracts utilizing the public bidding procedure when required;
7. Providing, constructing, controlling, supervising, and maintaining adequate physical facilities; making school buildings available for use as civil defense shelters; and establishing a resource conservation policy;
8. Establishing an equal educational opportunities policy that prohibits unlawful discrimination;
9. Approving the curriculum, textbooks, and educational services;
10. Evaluating the educational program and approving School Improvement and District Improvement Plans;
11. Presenting the District report card and School report cards to parents/guardians and the community; these documents report District, School, and student performance.

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12. Establishing and supporting student discipline policies designed to maintain an environment conducive to learning, including deciding individual student suspension or expulsion cases brought before it;
13. Establishing attendance units within the District and assigning students to the schools;
14. Establishing the school year;
15. Requiring a moment of silence to recognize veterans during any type of school event held at a District school on November 11;
16. Visiting and inspecting the District's schools;
17. Providing student transportation services pursuant to State law;
18. Entering into joint agreements with other School Boards to establish cooperative educational programs or provide educational facilities;
19. Complying with requirements in the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA). Specifically, each individual Board member must, if an allegation is raised to the member during an open or closed Board meeting that a student is an abused child as defined in ANCRA, direct or cause the Board to direct the Superintendent or other equivalent school administrator to comply with ANCRA's requirements concerning the reporting of child abuse; and
20. Communicating the schools' activities and operations to the community and representing the needs and desires of the community in educational matters.

Rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Education will be filed in the Administrative Office of the District and made available to the public for inspection during regular business hours.

Members of the Board of Education should endeavor to attend all meetings, discuss items presented on the agenda, suggest other items for consideration, and vote upon motions presented. Board members shall be non-partisan in dealing with school matters, and shall place the education of children above any partisan principal, group interest, or personal ambition.

Indemnification

To the extent allowed by law, the Board shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless School Board members, employees, volunteer personnel, mentors of licensed staff, and student teachers who, in the course of discharging their official duties imposed or authorized by law, are sued as parties in a legal proceeding. Nothing herein, however, shall be construed as obligating the Board to defend, indemnify, or hold harmless any person who engages in criminal activity, official misconduct, fraud, intentional or willful and wanton misconduct, or acts beyond the authority properly vested in the individual.

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LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10, 5/17-1, and 5/27-1  
115 ILCS 5/ III, Educational Labor Relations Act  
325 ILCS 5/4, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act

CROSS REF.: 100 and 200

Adopted: March 10, 1983  
Revised: September 24, 1998  
Revised: February 9, 2017  
Revised: April 9, 2020