

SCHOOL BOARD POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the laws of South Dakota, the school board acts as the governing body of the public schools with full powers of discretion and control. The board derives its authority from the state legislature and will function within the framework of state and federal laws and regulations, court decisions, and attorney general opinions.

The powers delegated to a school board by the state are delegated to the board as a whole. The president of the school board shall appoint all committees and preside at the school board meetings. The school board president, or in the president's absence any board member designated by the school board, shall countersign all checks or warrants authorized for payment by the school board.

The board exercises its powers and duties only in properly-called meetings, where a majority of the board constitutes a quorum to transact business. Except when performing a specific duty authorized by law, or directed by the board, the decision and actions of a single member of the board are not binding on the entire board. Unless specific authorization is granted by the school board, a school board member does not have any authority greater than members of the general public.

Recognizing the authority of the state, the board considers the following its general functions:

1. to select and employ a superintendent, business manager and support them in the discharge of their responsibilities;
2. to formulate and enact policy and to delegate the application of policies to the superintendent and his or her staff, who will be held responsible for the effective administration and supervision of the entire school system;
3. to provide for the planning, expansion, improvement, financing, construction, and maintenance of the physical plant of the school system;
4. to establish and maintain, records, accounts, archives, management methods, and procedures incidental to the conduct of school business;
5. to approve the budget, financial reports, audits, major expenditures, payment of obligations, and policies that enable the administration to formulate regulations and other guidelines for the orderly accomplishment of business;
6. to estimate and levy taxes for the operation, support, maintenance, improvement, and extension of the school system;

7. to adopt recommended curricula and provide instructional materials;
8. to employ support and professional personnel to carry out school programs and to provide fair and equitable compensation;
9. to evaluate educational programs to determine the effectiveness with which the schools are meeting the mission of the school system, and
10. to provide for the dissemination of school-district information to the public and to maintain open lines of communication with the community.

LEGAL REFS.: SDCL 13-8-1; 13-8-26; 13-8-39
13-10-2, generally, but powers and of school boards
are established throughout Title 13.

CROSS REFS.: AA: School District Legal Status
BBB: School District Elections

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