

## **POLICY DEVELOPMENT, ADOPTION AND REVIEW**

### PURPOSE

The Board considers policy development its chief function, along with providing the resources such as personnel, buildings, materials, and equipment for the successful interpretation and evaluation of its policies. It is the Board's intention that its policies serve as sources of information and guidance for all people who are interested in or connected with the public schools. The Board, representing the people of the district, is the legislative body which determines all questions of general policy to be used in the administration of the public schools.

The development and adoption of policies that govern the School District is one of the School Board's most important functions. Board policies establish the goals, direction and structure of the district under the authority of applicable statutes and regulations. In addition to policies required by state and federal laws and regulations, the Board adopts policies to provide direction to the Superintendent and other administrators in the management of the district, to guide the education program, and to provide clear expectations for school staff, students and parents.

Board policies are intended to provide the framework for district operations and the educational system. In general, the operational details as to how policies will be implemented are contained in administrative procedures developed by the administration. The Board reserves the right to review and rescind administrative procedures should they, in the Board's judgment, be inconsistent with the policies adopted by the Board. The Board may adopt administrative procedures concerning its own operations, or when an issue is of sufficient legal importance to warrant a Board-level procedure.

- A. Policy Committee Responsibilities and Meetings. The Board's Policy Committee with the advice and counsel of the Superintendent, is responsible for recommending policies and policy actions to the full Board for its consideration, including adopting new policies, revising existing policies and deleting obsolete policies.
- B. Policy Committee Meetings and Agendas. The Superintendent or his/her designee, in consultation with the Policy Committee Chair shall prepare all agendas for the meetings of the Policy Committee.
- C. Review of Existing Manual. The Policy Committee shall establish a schedule for reviewing existing Board policies and forming recommendations regarding the same for the Board.
- D. Procedures for Policy Development and Review.
  1. Individual Board members, Board standing or special committees, the Superintendent or other interested persons may submit policy suggestions, concerns, and/or drafts to the Policy Committee, in care of the Superintendent.

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2. The Superintendent or designee is responsible for notifying the Board and the Policy Committee of all priority/required by law policy updates and revisions provided by the New Hampshire School Boards Association. The Policy Committee will review such updates and make recommendations deemed appropriate under this policy.
  3. The Policy Committee, with the assistance of the Superintendent, will review and research policy suggestions and prepare draft policies, as appropriate. The Policy Committee may delegate research and initial drafting to other Board standing committees, to District staff or others at the discretion of the Policy Committee and the Superintendent. If a policy is referred to a committee, staff, professional or other person for initial review/drafting, the policy shall be reviewed by the Policy Committee before submission to the full Board.
  4. The Superintendent should seek counsel of the School Board's attorney or the New Hampshire School Boards Association when there may be a question of legality or proper legal procedure in the substance of any proposed or current board policy.
  5. The Policy Committee may also seek input from other affected persons and/or groups as appropriate.
  6. The Policy Committee will provide report to the full board at each school board meeting. The reports will include the Policy Committee's recommendations for new policies (including full text of policies/revisions to be considered for action by the Board), as well as recommendations for repeal of existing policies. Policy Committee reports should also include any information requested by the full board, and any other information deemed appropriate by the Policy Committee.
- E. Board Actions Required to Approve, Revise or Repeal Policies. Any final action regarding the approval of a new policy, or revision or repeal of an existing policy, requires a majority vote of a quorum of the board at a public meeting.
1. Policy Committee reports shall be placed on the agenda of a regular Board meeting and will be made part of the agenda package for that meeting.
  2. All new policies, and/or revisions to existing board policies are subject to a "first reading" by the full board to occur at a regular board meeting. There is no requirement that proposed policies/revisions be read aloud at the meeting, although either a majority of the Board or the Chair may determine that actual reading is appropriate.
  3. The Board will allow opportunity for public comment on policy proposals per Board policy BEDH – *Public Comment and Participation at Board Meetings.*

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4. Any changes agreed upon or requested by the board during the first reading shall be made by the Superintendent or Policy Committee prior to the second reading.
  5. At the next Board meeting (or a later meeting if so agreed by the Board), the policy shall be placed on the agenda for a second (or additional) reading, and action. Amendments may be made and acted upon at that meeting, or may be referred for further revision, etc.
  6. Prior to final approval by the Board, each policy will be titled, dated, and coded consistent with the classification system used by the New Hampshire School Boards Association.
  7. Board action regarding the adoption, revision or repeal of policies will be included in the minutes of the meeting at which the official action is taken.
  8. Approved policies become effective immediately unless the motion to approve the policy, or the policy itself, includes a specific implementation date.
- F. Suspension of Policy and Process.
1. The Board may adopt, amend, or repeal written policies at any meeting by a majority vote of Board members in attendance, provided that public notice of the proposed action was given at least 24 hours and that each Board member was notified of the proposed action. For purposes of notification, a meeting agenda delivered to each Board member is deemed sufficient if it identifies the policy to be acted upon.
  2. On matters of unusual or unexpected urgency, the Board may waive the second meeting limitation and take immediate action to adopt a new policy or revise an existing policy.
  3. The policies of the Board are subject to suspension only upon a majority vote of the entire Board membership at a meeting for which the proposed suspension has been described in writing, or upon a unanimous vote of the entire Board membership when no such written notice has been given.
  4. Those Board policies which pertain to the internal operations of the Board are subject to suspension only upon a two-thirds vote of all members of the Board at a meeting for which the proposed suspension has been described in writing, or upon a unanimous vote of the entire Board membership when no such written notice has been given.
- G. Policy Dissemination, Records and Manual Updates.

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1. All Board policies, and any written administrative rules and regulations implementing such policies constitute governmental records and are subject to the provisions of RSA 91-A.
2. Written notice of new, revised and deleted policies should be provided to affected groups (i.e., school staff, students, parents, community members) and posted on the district website and by other such appropriate means determined by the Superintendent.
3. The Superintendent will ensure that policies will be disseminated to affected groups (i.e., school staff, students, parents, community members) in line with the intention of the policy.
4. The Superintendent shall retain as government records copies of all policies deleted from the Board policy manual.
5. An up-to-date policy manual shall be maintained on the District’s website with a hard copy, in the Superintendent’s Office and in each school building. The Superintendent shall also assure that all hard copies of the district’s policy manual are recalled annually and updated as appropriate.

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**District Policy History:**

New NHSBA Policy	November 2020
Policy Reviewed:	November 30, 2022
First reading:	December 13, 2022
Reviewed	January 5, 2023
Second Reading:	January 10, 2023
Adopted/Approved	January 10, 2023