

SCHOOL BOARD POLICY

The RSU 26 Board considers policy development its most important governance function.

It is the intent of the Board to develop written policies that will serve as the foundation for the successful and efficient operation of RSU 26 and its schools.

The Board accepts the definition of policy set forth by the National School Boards Association:

School Board policies are statements that set forth the purposes and prescribe in general terms the organization and program of a school system.

Policies will be considered and adopted as set forth in regulation BG-R.

The board also recognizes that some policies may benefit for legal purposes or clarity by separating out regulations and exhibits. Regulations, denoted by a -R in the code, provide more detailed processes than the policy; exhibits, denoted by a -E in the code, provide documentation to be presented to the public in the implementation of policies such as forms or notices. Such regulations and exhibits are to be considered part of the policies and will be considered and approved through the same processes as policies as outlined in policy BG-R. Exhibits and regulations may be considered and approved individually from or in conjunction with its associated policy as convenient to the board so long as it is clearly stated at all times which is being done.

The Board's policies are framed and meant to be interpreted in terms of federal laws and regulations, state statutes and the rules of the Maine Department of Education, State Board of Education, and other regulatory agencies at various levels of government. The Board's policies are also intended to reflect the Board's educational philosophy and instructional objectives and practices and procedures that are supported by research and generally accepted by leaders and authorities in the field of public education.

It is the Board's intent that its policies set goals and provide direction and guidance for administrators, staff, and students and serve as sources of information for parents, community members and others who are interested in or connected with the schools.

The Board regards policy development and review as an ongoing process. The need for a new policy or revision or deletion of an existing policy may arise from a change in law and/or regulations, modification of the school unit's vision or goals, educational research or trends, the occurrence of a significant incident or a recommendation or request from Board members, school administrators, staff, parents, students or other interested persons.

Adoption of new or revised policies and repeal of existing policies is solely the responsibility of the Board. Policies will be adopted, amended, or repealed only by the affirmative vote of a majority of members present and voting.

Policies shall become effective upon the Board adoption or at a future date designated by the Board at the time of adoption.

The Superintendent/designee will be responsible for distributing new or revised policies to Board members and for making policies accessible to school personnel, students and the public.

Procedures, Guidelines and Forms

The board also notes that it is beneficial for a well run organization to have clearly documented procedures, guidelines and forms to ensure conformance with best practices, to protect interests of diverse stakeholders, protect the legal and financial interests of the district, and provide clear communication with employees and the public. The board recognizes that such procedures, guidelines and forms are more detailed than policies and are separate and distinct from policies, regulations and exhibits. In keeping with policy BBA by which the board delegates administration of the schools to the superintendent, the board recognizes the superintendent and designees are responsible for drafting procedures, guidelines and forms and directs the superintendent to writing and maintaining them as follows.

1. The need for individual procedures, guidelines and forms may result from a superintendent determination that it is needed to implement a policy, by direction of a policy or board motion, or by other determination of the superintendent that it is needed.
2. The superintendent is encouraged where stakeholder input is appropriate to use existing board-established forums such as subcommittees or workshops to obtain consultation and stakeholder input, but such consultation shall not change the fact that the superintendent or designee is solely responsible for writing procedures, guidelines and forms.
3. The superintendent is responsible for compiling all procedures, guidelines and forms with a table of contents.
4. Said compilation shall be presented to the board each year before school starts, typically in August, and the board shall examine and provide feedback on the compilation.
5. Said compilation shall be placed on an intranet accessible to the staff and board. A printed copy of said compilation shall be provided to each full time employee annually at the start of school.
6. The superintendent shall from time to time review the existing procedures, guidelines and forms to identify ones which should be deleted or updated and any new needs.
7. The board in consultation with the superintendent shall from time to time review policies, regulations and exhibits to see if they would be more appropriate as procedures, guidelines and forms, and conversely review procedures, guidelines and forms to see if they would be more appropriate as policies, regulations or exhibits.

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. § 1001 (1)(A)

Cross Reference: BG-R – Policy Adoption Procedure

Adopted: 01/13/2010

Revised: 04/07/2015

Revised: 05/14/2018