

## School Board Policy Process

There are distinct advantages in having policies and regulations in written form. Five are noted below:

### 1. **Orientation of new Board members and staff**

Written policies afford an excellent means of acquainting new Board members with the organization, policies and procedures employed in the district. They also help teachers and other employees understand common goals and their respective obligations and privileges.

### 2. **Guidance for the school system**

In the process of formulating policies, Board members, administrators, staff and perhaps representative laymen think through the nature of the school district's goals. Policies serve as guides for present services and future development.

### 3. **Continuity in school administration**

Written policies furnish a steadying influence which discourages ill-considered or sudden changes. There is nothing eternal and immutable about policies, but changes should be founded on study and well-thought-out proposals.

### 4. **Improvement of general efficiency**

Any organization's effectiveness depends largely on how well every individual's role is understood along with the policies and regulations which govern the organization. Policies encourage such understanding, define duties and services, outline procedures and also inform individuals of the prerequisites and rights of every position in the organization.

### 5. **Public relations**

Written policies, carefully worked out and made available to the people of a community, let the public know that the Board has given serious thought to educational problems. They acquaint the people with what the schools stand for and how they are expected to achieve their goals. Policies also assure fair and equitable treatment to the various community groups which have contact with the schools, for example in the use of school facilities.

Any individual or group may recommend a Board policy or regulations. Written policies and regulations should be concise statements which clearly identify the nature of the topic and express the intent of a decision or direction. When they fail to meet

this criteria, they should be revised. Policymaking is a process and not a project to be finished within a short time. It is a whole way of life for a school system which

results in more effective Board, administrative, teacher and community understanding of educational endeavor.

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LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1)(a-c)(y)(l) Board of education – specific duties

St. Vrain Valley School District RE-1J, Longmont, Colorado