

## WHAT DO SCHOOL BOARDS DO?

In general terms, the job of a school board in Washington is to make ample provision for the education of all children. More specifically, there are four major areas of responsibility, which can be classified as providing for:

1. A quality instructional program, within the limits of resources;
2. Management and direction of the school system;
3. Continued guidance through policy development and adoption; and
4. Communication between the district and the community.

Basically, the responsibilities of all school boards fall into the following categories:

**Policy Making** - A board's major function is to develop and adopt district policies governing many facets of school operations.

**Designating the Chief Executive** - A board is responsible for recruiting, hiring, and evaluating the performance of the superintendent of schools, who will carry out its policies.

**Planning, Goal Setting, and Appraisal** - Each board must establish the current and long-range educational plans and programs for its district.

**Financial Resources** - In consultation with the superintendent, a board is responsible for approval and adoption of an annual budget that will provide the financial basis for the buildings, furnishings, staff, materials, and equipment needed to carry out educational programs.

**Staffing and Appraisal** - The board is responsible for establishing policy governing salaries and salary schedules, terms and conditions of employment, fringe benefits, leave, and in-service training.

**Instruction** - Working closely with the school administration, a board must set general goals and adopt policies upon which instructional programs will be based.

**School Facilities** - A board is responsible for determining school housing needs; communicating those needs to the community; purchasing, disposing of, or leasing school sites; and for approving building plans that will support and enhance educational programs.

**Students** - Although the board does not deal directly with students or solve student-related problems, it does set policies that guide the actions of administration and other school staff.

**General** - Other board activities include:

- Establishing procedures for the operation of the board.
- Electing board officers.
- Approving the annual school calendar.
- Establishing and maintaining effective board-superintendent relations.
- Periodically reviewing and evaluating board operations and performance.