

## SCHOOL DISTRICT LEGAL STATUS

### Background

The United States Constitution leaves to the individual states the responsibility for public education. The Pennsylvania Constitution, Article III, Section 14 states “The General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of public education to serve the needs of the Commonwealth.” A school board is a legislative body of citizens called school directors, who are elected locally by their fellow citizens. Each board consists of nine members who serve four-year terms of office, without pay. (Vacancies may be filled by the Board, for shorter terms.) School directors, although locally elected, are subject to the terms of the Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949, as amended. They are designated by school law to administer the school system in each district. School Boards are answerable to the State, to the courts, and to the people. The Mt. Lebanon School Board functions as an agency of the public within this framework.

### Objective

The purpose of this policy is to outline the legal status of the Mt. Lebanon School District.

### Policy

1. The official name of the district shall be Mt. Lebanon School District and shall serve the municipality of Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania.
2. The Mt. Lebanon School District constitutes a corporate body that possesses all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes, and in that name may sue and be sued, purchase, hold and sell personal property and real estate, and enter into those obligations that are authorized by law.
3. The District shall be operated in accordance with constitutional and statutory provisions. Responsibility for interpreting these provisions shall lie with the School Board, except where formal interpretation of such provisions has been made by the courts or other constituted authority.
4. The educational services of the Mt. Lebanon School District shall be organized as a program of instruction with elementary school grades K-5, middle school grades 6-8, senior high school grades 9-12, and other special classrooms or programs as the Board may authorize the District Administration to establish.
5. Unless otherwise designated in official action by the Board, the Board will conduct its business at Mt. Lebanon School District, 7 Horsman Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15228-1107.

### Communication

This policy shall be communicated to:

1. Central Office Administration
2. The Mt. Lebanon Community

Adopted July 19, 2004