

School District Legal Status

Section A - School District Legal Status

The Illinois Constitution requires the State to provide for an efficient system of high-quality public educational institutions and services in order to achieve the educational development of all persons to the limits of their capabilities.

The Illinois General Assembly has implemented this mandate through the creation of school districts. The District is governed by the laws for school districts serving a resident population of not fewer than 1,000 and not more than 500,000.

A referendum authorizing the formation of Northfield Township High School District 225 was approved by voters on March 29, 1947. On April 13, 1953, following the detachment of the Sunset Ridge area from the school district's service area, the Board of Education established the name Glenbrook High School. Since that time, the school district has continued to operate as a township high school district, serving the majority of Northfield Township. On August 8, 2022, the Board of Education took action to formally update its legal name to Glenbrook High School District 225.

Section BA - Legal Authority

The Board of Education is a legal body created by the statutes of the State of Illinois. The Board consists of seven members who are state officials receiving their responsibilities and powers through state law.

The Board, elected by the citizens of Glenbrook High School District 225, governs the District and acts as an agent of the state to express the will of the district's citizens in matters pertaining to education, as defined in the statutes of the State of Illinois.

Section C - Board Collective Authority

As stated in the Board member oath of office prescribed by the Illinois School Code, members of the Board have no authority over school affairs as individuals. They have complete authority over school affairs, within state law, when they serve collectively as a legal body. Official action by the Board may occur only at a duly called and legally conducted meeting at which a quorum is present.

Section D - Powers and Duties of the Board

The major powers and duties of the Board include, but are not limited to:

1. Formulating, adopting, and modifying Board policies, at its sole discretion, subject only to mandatory collective bargaining agreements, other agreements entered into by the Board, and State and federal law.
2. Employing a superintendent and other personnel, making employment decisions, disciplining and dismissing personnel, and establishing an equal employment opportunity policy (Board Policy 6000) that prohibits unlawful discrimination.
3. Through policies or directives issued by the Board, direct the superintendent as the chief executive of the district.
4. Approving the annual budget, tax levies, major expenditures, payment of obligations, annual audit, and other aspects of the District's financial operation; and making available a statement of financial affairs as provided in State law.

5. Entering into contracts including use of a public bidding procedure (Board Policy 4200) when required.
6. Indemnifying, protecting, and insuring against any loss or liability of the district, Board members, employees, and agents as provided or authorized by State law.
7. Providing, constructing, controlling, and maintaining adequate physical facilities; making school buildings available for use as civil defense shelters.
8. Establishing an equal educational opportunities policy that prohibits unlawful discrimination.
9. Approving the curriculum, textbooks, and educational services.
10. Evaluating the educational program and approving sSchool and district improvement plans.
11. Presenting the district report card and school report card(s) to parents/guardians and the community; these documents report district, school and student performance as required by State law.
12. Establishing and supporting student discipline policies designed to maintain an environment conducive to learning, including deciding individual student discipline brought before it.
13. Establishing schools within the District and assigning students to the schools.
14. Establishing the school year and calendar.
15. Requiring a moment of silence to recognize veterans during any type of school event held at a district school on November 11 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.46).
16. Entering into joint agreements with other boards and other governmental agencies to establish cooperative educational programs or to provide educational facilities.
17. Complying with requirements in the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act. Specifically, each individual Board member must, if an allegation is raised to the member during an open or closed Board meeting that a student is an abused child as defined in the Act, bring to the attention of the Board to direct the superintendent or designee to comply with the Act's requirements concerning the reporting of child abuse.
18. Communicating the schools' activities and operations to the community and representing the needs and desires of the community in matters pertaining to the district.

Section E - Delegation of Authority

The Board of Education is, in practice, primarily a policy-making body. Although legally authorized to administer policy, the Board generally delegates this function to the superintendent.

Section F - Evaluating Policy and Administration Effectiveness

While delegating administrative functions to the superintendent, the Board of Education remains responsible for evaluation of the effectiveness of the execution of its policies. Such evaluation involves ongoing appraisal of the results of the Board's policies, as well as the effectiveness of the general administration of the district.

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