

Bylaws of the Board

Formulation, Adoption, Amendment of Policies

The development of sound educational policies is one of the primary duties of the Board of Education (Board). Policies serve to promote democratic and responsive school governance and constitute a major method by which the Board exercises its leadership. Policies are guides for administrative action by the Superintendent of Schools and their staff; such administration action shall be consistent with the intent of Board of Education policy. The Amity Regional School District No. 5 (District) shall be guided by Board-adopted written policies that are given appropriate distribution and are accessible to staff members, parents, students, and community residents through the District website.

Policies and policy amendments may be initiated by the Superintendent, Board members, school personnel, or community citizens. Although the Board encourages and welcomes community, staff and student involvement, only the Board may establish policy. The Superintendent is encouraged to submit written recommendations for new policies and for revision of existing policies as necessary for the effective operation of the public schools. The Superintendent will prepare a draft policy statement for consideration and development by the Policy Committee; subsequently the Board of Education shall act upon the recommended policy.

The procedure for the adoption of a new policy or the amendment of existing policy shall be:

1. Upon referral to the policy committee, the committee will develop a statement of policy or change of existing policy based on the following:
 - a. Suggestions and requests from Board members;
 - b. Recommendations from the Superintendent of Schools;
 - c. Statutory requirements.
2. The policy committee shall present a policy statement, or revised policy statement, with its recommendations to the Board. No action shall be taken at the meeting in which the first read is presented. Recommendations for changes to the proposed policy statement should be made to members of the Policy Committee.
3. The policy shall bring the proposed or revised policy statements back to the Board for a second read with a recommendation from the Board's policy committee. Proposed policy changes approved by majority vote of the Board shall take immediate effect.
4. For proposed policy statements, new or revised, because of changes or additions to Connecticut General Statutes or State Board of Education Regulations, approval may be given at the initial presentation.
5. Formal adoption of policies and/or amendments of policies shall be recorded in the minutes of the Board meeting. Only those written statements so adopted and recorded shall be regarded as official policies.

The Board shall designate one copy of the policy manual as the official policy manual of the District. The official copy shall be kept in the Superintendent's office, and the Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for its accuracy and integrity and shall maintain a historical record of the District's policy manual. If discrepancies occur between the policies on the website and the official policy manual, the version contained in the official policy manual shall be regarded

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as authoritative.

Legally referenced policies contain provisions from federal and state statutes and regulations, case law, and other legal authority that together form the framework for local decision-making and implementation. These policies are binding on the District until the cited provisions are repealed, revised, or superseded by legislative, regulatory, or judicial action.

No policy or regulation, or any portion thereof, shall be operative if it is found to be in conflict with applicable law. If any portion of a policy or its application to any person or circumstance is found to be invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of policy that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application; and to this end the provisions of this policy manual are declared to be severable.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures