

Descriptor Term: SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES - A GOVERNMENT OF LAW

Descriptor Code: AAB

Rescinds: AAB

Board Approved: 6/3/2013

Previously Approved: 5/22/2006

The people, through their appointed representatives, determine the goals and directions of the Gulfport School District. The Board of Trustees controls the operation of the schools through its legislative decisions that are recorded in the form of "policy" statements. Policy directs the actions of the employed personnel responsible for school operational procedures.

Policy development is a process that recognizes many antecedent movements that come to the Board's attention. It involves many forces beyond the Board's control. It involves many persons and groups - teachers, students, boosters, taxpayers, public officials, outside advisors. The Board does not make policy in isolation from these antecedent movements, forces, and people. Yet the Board that holds itself accountable can exercise considerable power at the crucial moment. The Board initiates policy, but equally important, it serves as a vital policy broker. The Board members are policy adjudicators. They mediate conflicting policy recommendations, and in the end, they make the final decision within the constraints of their authority. The Board's final policy determination represents key decisions that unlock many other decisions and actions.

In this context, policy development remains one of the paramount responsibilities of the Board.

The policies adopted by the Gulfport School District Board of Trustees are designed to control and guide the operation in a manner that will require and permit the staff to provide the best possible schools for the children of the District.

Policy statements approved by the Board must be implemented by the Superintendent, the Board's Chief Executive Officer. Implementation, to be successful, requires clearly written procedural designs; and the development of appropriate written procedures for the implementation of Board policy is among the key responsibilities of the Superintendent.