

SCHOOL DISTRICT LEGAL STATUS

In Rhode Island, the respective towns and cities bear the responsibility of establishing and maintaining a sufficient number of schools for public education in grades kindergarten through 12.

The State Constitution sets forth this mandate:

The diffusion of knowledge, as well as of virtue, among the people, being essential to the preservation of their rights and liberties, it shall be the duty of the general assembly to promote public schools, and to adopt all means which they may deem necessary and proper to secure to the people the advantages and opportunities of education.

By assigning the responsibility for providing public education to each town, the assembly shares its authority with the community. Hence, the public schools function both as instruments of the state and local government. The enabling legislation provides for the operation of the public school system by a school department administered by a superintendent of schools responsible to an elected School Committee.

Established by law

ADOPTED: January 24, 1994

REVIEWED: April 17, 2023

LEGAL REF.: Constitution of Rhode Island, Art. XII,
Title 16 of the Rhode Island General Laws,
Hereinafter cited by title, chapter, and Section as follows:
16-2-1, 16-2-2-, 16-2-4, 6-60-4
Enabling Legislation 91-7033

CROSS REF.: BB School Committee Legal Status