

Policies

Westerly Public Schools

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Westerly School Committee Powers and Duties

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A. The entire care, control, and management of Westerly Public Schools (WPS) shall be vested in the Westerly School Committee. The School Committee shall have the following powers and duties:

1. To identify educational needs in the community.
2. To develop education policies to meet the needs of the community.
3. To provide for and assure the implementation of federal and state laws, the regulations of the board of regents for elementary and secondary education, Westerly town ordinances, and of local school policies, programs, and directives.
4. To provide for the evaluation of the performance of the school system.
5. To have responsibility for the total care and control of local schools.
6. To have overall policy responsibility for the employment and discipline of school department personnel.
7. To approve a master plan defining goals and objectives of the school system. These goals and objectives shall be expressed in terms of what men and women should know and be able to do as a result of their educational experience. The committee shall periodically evaluate the efforts and results of education in light of these objectives.
8. To provide for the location, care, control, and management of school facilities and equipment.
9. To adopt an annual school budget to submit to the Westerly Town Council. The budget shall conform to all applicable state and local laws, regulations, ordinances, etc. (Ref. WPS Policy 3020)
10. To adopt any changes in the school budget during the course of the school year.
11. In keeping with the need for periodic reconciliation of the budget of the Westerly Public Schools, the Westerly School Committee will consider requests for transfers of funds as they are recommended by the School Superintendent. The Committee wishes to be kept abreast of the need for these adjustments so that it may act promptly and expedite financial record keeping for the school system.

Transfer approvals by the School Committee are recommended prior to budget balances being transferred between the following listed budget categories in a cumulative fiscal year total amount exceeding \$10,000.

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- A. Salary and Benefits
- B. General Operating
- C. Contract Services
- D. Tuitions
- E. Repair & Maintenance
- F. Utilities & Fuel
- G. Technology
- H. Other Detail

The Superintendent is authorized to make such transfers as necessary if the urgent need for transfer prevents the School Committee from meeting in a timely fashion to consider the transfer. Transfers made in such instances shall be announced at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the School Committee.

Transfer approval is required only for funds that are not derived from grants. Newly awarded grants shall be separately placed on the agenda of a School Committee meeting for informational and approval purposes.

Budget transfers submitted for School Committee approval shall be accompanied by supporting documentation presenting changes to the original budget as adopted by the School Committee.

All adopted budget transfers are required to be recorded in the centralized accounting system at the detailed account level within five (5) business days of such approval. Subsequent financial budget reports issued by the Finance Department are required to reflect all budget transfer activity adopted year to date and reflected in a worksheet column entitled "Revised Budget".

12. To approve expenditures in the absence of a budget, consistent with state law.
13. To employ a Superintendent of Schools and assign any compensation and other terms and conditions as the School Committee and Superintendent shall agree, provided that in no event shall the term of employment of the Superintendent exceed three (3) years.
14. To give advice and consent on the appointment by the Superintendent of all school department personnel.

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15. To establish minimum standards for personnel, to adopt personnel policies, and to approve a table of organization.
 16. To establish standards for the evaluation of personnel. In addition, to provide an annual evaluation of the Superintendent's performance.
 17. To establish standards for conduct in the schools and for disciplinary actions.
 18. To hear appeals from disciplinary actions.
 19. To enter into contracts.
 20. To publish policy manuals, which shall include all School Committee policies.
 21. To establish policies governing curriculum, courses of instruction and text books.
 22. To provide for transportation services which meet or exceed standards of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education.
 23. To make any reports to the Department of Education as are required by the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education.
 24. To delegate, consistent with law, any responsibilities to the Superintendent as the School Committee may deem appropriate.
 25. To address the health and wellness of students and employees.
 26. To establish a subcommittee of the Committee to decrease obesity and address school health and wellness policies for students and employees consistent with §16-21-28.
- B. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to limit or interfere with the rights of teachers and other school employees to collectively bargain pursuant to Chapters 9.3 and 9.4 of Title 28 or to allow any School Committee to abrogate any agreement reached by collective bargaining.
- C. The Westerly School Committee shall have the power to bind their successors and successor committees by entering into contracts of employment in the exercise of their governmental functions.
- D. Notwithstanding any provisions of the general laws to the contrary, the requirement defined in subsections (d) through (f) of this section shall apply. The Westerly School Committee shall be responsible for maintaining a school budget which does not result in a debt.

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- E. The Westerly School Committee shall, within thirty (30) days after the close of the first and second quarters of the state's fiscal year, adopt a budget as may be necessary to enable it to operate without incurring a debt, as described in subsection (d). (Ref. WPS Policy 3020)

- F. In accordance with RIGL 16-2-9, in the event that any obligation, encumbrance, or expenditure by the Westerly Superintendent of Schools or the Westerly School Committee is in excess of the amount budgeted or that any revenue is less than the amount budgeted, the Westerly School Committee shall within five (5) working days of its discovery of potential or actual over expenditure or revenue deficiency submit a written statement of the amount of and cause for the over obligation or over expenditure or revenue deficiency to the Westerly Town Council President and Westerly Town Manager; the statement shall further include a statement of the Westerly School Committee's plan for corrective actions necessary to meet the requirements of subsection (d). The plan shall be approved by the auditor general.

Adopted: June 7, 2006
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