

## School Board Powers and Duties

« 5. », • 5:17. »

New York School Law Ch. 5, 5:17

### 5:17. What are the powers and duties of a school board?

A school board has no inherent powers and possesses only those powers expressly delegated by statute or necessarily and reasonably implied therefrom (*Appeal of Woodarek*, 46 Ed Dept Rep 1 (2006), *petition dismissed*, (Sup. Ct. Albany Cnty. May 22, 2007); *Appeal of McKenna*, 42 Ed Dept Rep 54 (2002); *Appeal of Rosenkranz*, 37 Ed Dept Rep 330 (1998); *Appeal of Bode*, 33 Ed Dept Rep 260 (1993)).

The general powers and duties of school boards are outlined in the Education Law, which assigns different powers and duties to different types of school districts, some of which are common to various types of districts, others of which are specific to a single type of district. Figure 1 below lists the different types of districts, and the Education Law sections that govern their respective responsibilities.

**Fig. 1**

**School Board Responsibilities**

<b>Type of school district</b>	<b>Education Law section</b>
Common school districts	1604
Union free school districts	1709
Central school districts	1804
Central high school districts	1903
Small city school districts	2503
Large city school districts	2554
New York City Panel for Educational Policy (formerly, the central board)	2590-g
New York City community district educational councils	2590-e

Additional powers and duties may be found in other state laws such as the General Municipal Law, the Local Finance Law, the Real Property Tax Law and the Public Officers Law, as well as in federal law and regulations, and the state education commissioner's regulations.

However, all school boards are similar in that they are responsible for the education of the children residing in their respective districts.