

**Providence School Board Policy**  
**SCHOOL BOARD GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS**  
**School Board Policy Process**

<b>Purpose</b>	The purpose of this policy is to provide clear expectations for the School Board's policy development, adoption, and review process.
<b>Issue</b>	Among the powers and duties of school boards is the responsibility to develop education policies to meet the needs of the community. The goal of such policies is to ensure that each learner receives an education of the highest quality in a positive environment with caring, dedicated, and effective teaching and administrative staff. Policies enable the District to achieve the District vision, mission, and core beliefs and commitments
<b>Position</b>	Policies are principles adopted by the School Board to chart a course of action. Written policy is the means by which the School Board informs the community of these principles. Written policy is the means by which the Board provides direction to the administration, which then sets regulations to provide specific direction to district personnel. Within the context of current law, the School Department shall be guided by Board-adopted written policies that are given appropriate distribution and are accessible to staff members, parents, students, and community residents.

**Harmony with Law**

In addition to local policies, Providence School Department policy includes legally referenced policies. 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These legally-referenced policies are binding on the School Department until the cited provisions are repealed, revised, or superseded by legislative, regulatory, or judicial action.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 conflicts 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.

Policies are intended to be guiding principles for management purposes only. Notwithstanding anything in this policy or in any other policy to the contrary, no policy confers, or is intended to confer, directly or indirectly, any right or remedy upon any person, and no policy, directly or indirectly, inures to the benefit of, and no policy may be relied upon by, any person under any circumstance whatsoever.

**Policy Analysis**

Proposed policy or revisions to current policy presented to the Board for consideration shall be accompanied whenever possible by a policy analysis. The policy analysis may include but is not limited to (1) a statement of the need for such policy or revision, (2) the relationship of the proposed policy or revision to other School Board policies, (3) legal aspects, including federal, state, and local laws or regulations, (4) financial implications, and, when appropriate, (5) similar policies adopted by other school systems.

The policy analysis shall not be incorporated into the policy itself but is intended to assist board members in making decisions consistent with the district's mission and goals. Policy analysis may not be relied upon in interpreting the policy.

### **Policy Adoption Process**

Except as provided in the next sentence, new policy and policy amendments shall undergo a minimum of two readings prior to adoption. There shall be opportunity for public comment prior to final adoption by the Board, which opportunity may take the form of a public comment agenda item at any time between the first reading and the effective date of the final adoption of the policy by the Board. Emergency adoption, however, may occur without two readings and without public comment if special circumstances (which circumstances will be determined by the Board in its sole discretion) demand an immediate response. Local policies become effective upon adoption or at future dates as determined by the Board.

### **Communicate the Policy**

The Board shall communicate the new or amended policy to internal and external stakeholders through the official policy manual hosted online on the District website.

**Desired Outcome** An effective policy process that promotes accountability, engagement, and responsibility.

### **Implementation Policy Development Process**

Policies and/or policy amendments may be proposed by the Board, or the Superintendent. The Board will determine whether the policy will be developed by the administration, a task force, or by another method to be determined by the Board. The Board will create a policy charter for policies to be developed by task forces and may choose to create a policy charter for policies to be developed by the administration or by other methods..

The Board shall monitor policy implementation through executive monitoring reports and/or external audit reports provided on an ongoing basis as stipulated in individual policies. The reports shall provide evidence of policy effectiveness relative to purpose and implementation.

The Board expects Superintendent decision-making to be made in compliance with policy based on a reasonable interpretation thereof.

**Review** This policy shall be reviewed every three years.

**Cross Reference** AD Core Beliefs and Commitments

**Legal reference**

**History** Policy Adopted: April 8, 1971 Resolution #656

Policy Revised: July 24, 1972

Policy Amended: March 11, 1991

Policy Revised: July 22, 2002 Resolution 7-29-02

Policy Revised: November 10, 2008