

Policy Type: Strategic Policies

Board Policy Introduction

This is the Lake County School District Board Policy Manual. This document, along with Colorado law and the Board's minutes, serve as our basic governing documents. The District and Board exist and operate through the Colorado Constitution and state law, which also describe the powers of the Board, its members, and the District. Board minutes are a legal record of the Board's meetings, actions, and decisions. Board policy records those largest, most general decisions upon which subsequent behavior is based.

These policies are the written statements of the Board of Education as a whole that define the expectations, values or perspectives which underlie and guide the decisions and actions of the Board, Superintendent and staff. To distinguish these decisions as Board decisions, we call them Board Policies. The Superintendent further establishes policies, procedures, practices and makes decisions consistent with Board policy.

There are four categories of Board Policy:

1. **Strategic Policies:** These describe the mission, organizational products, impacts, benefits, results, recipients and their relative priority, worth or cost (what end result is desired for whom and at what cost); these are primarily descriptions about what good our District should create in the lives of students.
2. **Governance Process:** These describe how the Board will conceive, carry out and monitor its own work.
3. **Board/Superintendent Relationship:** Since the Board has delegated all executive authority to its Superintendent, these policies describe the Superintendent's role, authority, accountability and how the District's and the Superintendent's performance will be monitored or evaluated.
4. **Staff/Superintendent Guidelines:** These describe the constraints on executive authority which establish the practical, ethical and legal boundaries within which all executive and staff activity and decision-making will take place.

Within each category, these policies are written from the most general to the more specific. Each smaller level is also a more specific interpretation of some of the concepts in the next higher level. Therefore, whatever is written at the larger levels also pertains to each smaller level. This results in policies that are concise and complete.

For example, at the largest or most general level Staff/Superintendent Guideline policies, the Board has stated that the "...Superintendent shall not cause or allow any...organizational circumstance which is unlawful..." Since this concept is embedded in all further policies, it is unnecessary for the other policies to further describe areas where the District must follow the law.

The Board also has a focus on Results Based Governance, so its policies are formulated to encourage results, particularly results for students. This focus is more specifically described in the documents which follow in this introductory section.