

POLICY DEVELOPMENT / REVISION

Category R

The Board endorses for use in this District the policy development, codification, and dissemination system of the New Hampshire School Boards Association.

This system, is to serve as a general guideline for such tasks as policy research, the drafting of preliminary policy proposals, reviewing policy drafts with concerned groups, presenting new and revised policies to the Board for consideration and action, policy dissemination, policy evaluation, and the maintenance of a continuously and easy-to-use policy manual.

Policy Adoption

- A. The Board may adopt, amend, or repeal written policies at any meeting by a majority vote of Board members in attendance, provided that notice of the proposed action was given at a previous Board meeting and that each Board member was notified of the proposed action. for purposes of notification, the meeting agenda delivered to each Board member is deemed sufficient.
- B. On matters of unusual or unexpected urgency, the Board may waive the second meeting limitation and take immediate action to adopt a new policy or revise an existing policy.
- C. The Board will allow an opportunity for public comments on policy proposals.
- D. All policies will be titled, dated, and coded consistent with the classification system used by the New Hampshire School Boards Association.
- E. Board action regarding the adoption, revision or repeal of policies will be included in the minutes of the meeting at which the official action is taken.
- F. Policies and amendments will be effective immediately upon adoption, unless a specific effective date is provided in the adopted final policy.
- G. All written policies and administrative rules and regulations will be open for and available for public inspection, upon request.
- H. Manuals will be provided to each Board member by online access and at least one master copy will be kept in each school district and one master copy in the SAU central office.
- I. All Board policies will be reviewed and evaluated by the school board on a regular and continuing basis. The Board's policy manual will be updated due to actions taken as a result of this review and evaluation.
- J. The Superintendent or designee is responsible for notifying the Board of all policy updates and revisions provided by the New Hampshire School Boards Association. The Board will then schedule time for review of such updates and will taken action accordingly regarding the adoption, revision or repeal of such policies.

A member of the SAU staff is to be designated and delegated by the Superintendent with the responsibility to maintain the Board's policy reference files, to draft policy proposals as instructed by the Board and/or Superintendent, to maintain the Board policy manual, and to serve as liaison between the Board, the New Hampshire School Boards Association, State Board of Education, and other sources of policy research information.

Except for policy actions to be taken on emergency measures, the adoption of Board policies should follow this sequence which will take place at least at two regular or special meetings of the Board:

1. Announcement and publication of proposed new or revised policies as an item of information.
2. Opportunity offered to concerned groups or individuals to react to policy proposals.
3. Discussion and final action by the Board on policy proposals.

The final vote to adopt or not to adopt should follow by at least two weeks from the meeting at which policy proposals are first placed on the agenda.

1. Prior to enactment, all policy proposals shall be titled and coded as appropriate to subject and in conformance with the codification system used in the Board policy manual.
2. Insofar as possible, each policy statement shall be limited to one subject.
3. Policies and amendments adopted by the Board shall be attached to and made a part of the minutes of the meeting at which they are adopted and shall also be included in the policy manual of the District marked with the date of adoption and/or amendment.
4. Policies and amendments to policies shall be effective immediately upon adoption unless a specific effective date is provided in the adopted resolution.

Emergency Procedure

On matters of unusual urgency, the Board may waive the two-week limitation and take immediate action to adopt new or revise existing policies. When such immediate action is necessary, the Superintendent shall inform concerned groups or individuals about the reasons for this necessity.

Policy Review and Evaluation

In an effort to keep its written policies up-to-date so that they may be used consistently as a basis for Board action and administrative decision, the Board will review its policies on a continuing basis.

The Board will evaluate how the policies have been executed by the school staff and weigh the results. It will rely on the school staff, students, and the community for providing evidence of the effect of the policies which it has adopted.

The Superintendent is given the continuing responsibility of calling to the Board's attention all policies that are out of date or appear to need revision for other reasons.

The Board directs the Superintendent to recall all policy and regulations manuals annually for

purposes of administrative updating and Board review.

Policy Dissemination

The policy manual is a public document. The Superintendent is directed to establish and maintain an orderly plan for preserving and making accessible the policies adopted by the Board and the administrative rules and regulations needed to put them into effect.

Accessibility is to extend at least to all employees of the school system, to members of the Board, and to persons in the community insofar as conveniently possible. Manuals will be available for inspection at the Superintendent's office, and each Principal's office.

All policy manuals shall remain the property of the School Board and shall be considered as "on loan" to anyone, or any organization, in whose possession they might be at any time. They are subject to recall at any time deemed necessary by the administrative head of the School District.

The Superintendent is responsible for ensuring an annual update of all manuals.

Legal References:

RSA 91-A:4, Minutes and Records Available for Public Inspection

Adopted by the Jackson School Board – January 19, 2021