

**SCHOOL POLICIES
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 16**

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| POLICY | 101 | Page: 1 of 4 |
| SERIES | 100 | School District |
| SUBJECT | 101 | Legal Status of the School District |
| Adopted | | November 14, 2000 |
| Revised | | May 11, 2004, March 8, 2005; June 14, 2011 |

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to clarify the legal status of the school district.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The school district is a public corporation subject to the control of the legislature. The school district has been created for educational purposes.
- B. The legislature has authority to prescribe the school district's powers and privileges, its boundaries and territorial jurisdictions.
- C. The school district has the powers conferred on it by the legislature. In addition, the School Board has implied powers necessary to affect the School Board's authority to govern, carry out its duties and responsibilities, and conduct the business of the school district.

III. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ENTITIES

- A. The school district is a separate legal entity.
- B. The school district is coordinated with and not subordinate to the county in which it is situated.
- C. The school district is not subservient to municipalities within its territory.

IV. POWERS AND AUTHORITY OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

A. Funds

- 1. The school district, through its School Board, has authority to raise funds for the operation and maintenance of its schools, and authority to manage and expend such funds, subject to applicable law.

2. The school district has wide discretion over the expenditure of funds under its control for public purposes, subject to the limitations provided by law.
3. School district officials occupy a fiduciary position in the management and expenditure of funds provided to the district.

B. Raising Funds

1. The school district shall, within the limitations specified by law, provide by levy of tax necessary funds for the conduct of schools, payment of indebtedness, and all proper expenses.
2. The school district may issue bonds in accordance with the provisions of Minn. Stat. Ch. 475, or other applicable law.
3. The school district has authority to accept gifts and donations for school purposes, subject to applicable law.

C. Property

1. The school district may acquire property for school purposes. It may sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of property which is no longer needed for school purposes, subject to applicable law.
2. The school district shall manage its property in a manner consistent with the educational functions of the district.
3. The school district may permit the use of its facilities for community purposes which are not inconsistent with, nor disruptive of, its educational mission.
4. School district officials hold school property as trustees for the use and benefit of students, taxpayers and the community.

D. Contracts

1. The school district is empowered to enter into contracts in the manner provided by law.
2. The school district has authority to enter into installment purchases and leases with an option to purchase, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 465.71 or other applicable law.
3. The school district has authority to make contracts with other governmental agencies and units for the purchase, lease or other acquisition of equipment, supplies, materials, or other property, including real property.

4. The school district has authority to enter into employment contracts. As a public employer, the school district, through its designated representatives, shall meet and negotiate with public employees in an appropriate bargaining unit and enter into written collective bargaining agreements with such employees, subject to applicable law.

E. Textbooks, Educational Materials, and Studies

1. The school district, through its administrators, has the authority to determine what textbooks, educational materials, and studies should be pursued.
2. The school district shall establish and apply the school curriculum.

F. Actions and Suits

The school district has authority to sue and to be sued.

V. RATIONALE

It is a primary principle of this nation that the public welfare demands an educated and informed citizenry. The Constitution requires the state to provide public education. The state legislature is granted the power necessary to carry through that mandate, and some of that authority is delegated to local school districts.

Legal References: Minn. Const. art. 13, § 1

Minn. Stat. Ch. 123B. (School Districts, Powers and Duties)

Minn. Stat. Ch. 179A (Public Employment Labor Relations)

Minn. Stat. § 465.035 (Conveyance or Lease of Land)

Minn. Stat. §§ 465.71; 471.345; 471.6161; 471.64 (Rights, Powers, Duties of Political Subdivisions)

Minnesota Association of Public Schools v. Hanson, 287 Minn. 415, 178 N.W.2d 846 (1970)

Independent School District No. 581 v. Mattheis, 275 Minn. 383, 147 N.W.2d 374 (1966)

Village of Blaine v. Independent School District No. 12, 272 Minn. 343, 138 N.W.2d 32 (1965)

Huffman v. School Board, 230 Minn. 289, 41 N.W.2d 455 (1950)

State v. Lakeside Land Co., 71 Minn. 283, 73 N.W.970 (1898)

Cross References: Policy 201 (Legal Status of School Board)
Policy 603 (Curriculum Development)
Policy 604 (Instructional Curriculum)
Policy 606 (Textbooks and Instructional Materials)
Policy 705 (Investments)
Policy 706 (Acceptance of Gifts)
Policy 801 (Equal Access to Facilities of Secondary Schools)
MSBA Service Manual, Chapter 4, Employee Negotiations
MSBA Service Manual, Chapter 13, School Law Bulletin "F" (Contract and Bidding Procedures)