

B-2 BOARD OPERATIONAL GOALS (Philosophy of Local Board Responsibility)

Local school boards exemplify American principles of representative democracy. Ultimately accountable to their publics, local school boards act as community decision making agencies for the public schools. Moreover, on behalf of local public schools, school boards represent their community to local, state, and national agencies.

In the strong conviction that the American system of public school education will best meet the needs of the citizenry if all local school boards throughout the United States recognize and meet their full legal, civic, social, economic, moral, and ethical responsibilities, the Board believes that:

1. Standards of Local Board Operations. School boards should function in a nonpartisan, broadly representative, team-spirited manner. Every member of a school board should represent open-mindedly the entire school district; and, consequently, must let his or her consideration for the entire district take precedence over every form of partisanship and special interest--political, racial, religious, geographic, economic, social, civic, or other.
2. Written Policy: Adoption and Execution. School boards should adopt clearly defined written policies based on a thorough understanding of the educational process. In formulating the policies they should consult individuals and groups affected by the policies, and properly delegate execution of those policies to employed professional administrators.
3. Open Board Meetings and Public Information. School boards should conduct school district business in open session, except as otherwise provide by law, and endeavor by every possible means to inform the public concerning the schools.
4. Citizen Group Involvement. School boards should enlist citizen groups to assist and counsel them, making certain that three principles are followed: (a) citizen groups should be broadly representative; (b) recommendations should be based on research and facts, and (c) recommendations should be submitted to school boards who alone have the authority and responsibility to act upon them.
5. Training and Research. School boards should seek to improve their own capabilities and procedures and should encourage training, scholarly research and experimental efforts which offer promise of improving school board capabilities and procedures.

SOURCE: Plainfield Community School Corporation
Plainfield, IN

REVISED: 06/12/79, 09/14/89