

SCHOOL BOARD LEGAL STATUS

The Independence School Board is composed of five members elected to three-year terms on a staggered basis. Legally, therefore, the local School Board is an agency of the State of Wisconsin with powers delegated to it by the state legislature and regulations of the State Department of Public Instruction; however, by custom and tradition, local boards have responsibility to the local citizenry they serve and by ethics to the professional personnel they employ. Recognizing this three-dimensional concept of authority and responsibility, the Independence School Board is the policy making body for the Independence Public Schools and serves within the framework provided by law, the will of the local citizenry, and the ethics of professional personnel employed by the District.

The wisdom and farsightedness of the School Board members and the effectiveness and efficiency with which the School Board as a corporate body discharges its duties and obligations determines to a large degree the educational level of the citizens of the School District of Independence.

It is an unwritten principle that School Board members hold their allegiance to all the people of the district that they serve. They are the guardians of the democracy in education and the implementers of local control. Board members can represent special interests or particular segments of the population; however, the purpose of the School Board is to provide excellence of educational opportunities for all the children of the district in an effective, efficient, economical manner as possible.

The School Board is responsible for the making and the adoption of all major policies and procedures which affect the operation of the School District of Independence. As an individual, a Board member has no legal authority, unless designated by vote of the School Board as a whole. Collectively, as a legal body at a legal meeting, the Board has complete authority, within state law, over school affairs of the district.

It shall be the policy of the Board to continually inform its members, the staff and the public that only the Board has the authority to take any official action.

Reaffirmed annually April 25, 1988 through Sept 7, 2011

Reaffirmed February 6, 2018