

ROLE AND ADOPTION OF SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

It is the intent of the Boards to outline direction and goals for the successful consistent and efficient operation of the Caledonia Central Supervisory Union and its member School Districts through the adoption of policies. All policies will be in compliance with Vermont and federal law and regulations.

Definitions

Policies guide the school boards, administrators and other district employees, students, parents and community members by stating Supervisory Union and District goals and establishing parameters for administrative action.

Procedures (also referred to as rules or regulations) are developed by the superintendent or his or her designee to provide for the management of the public schools in the District by describing how tasks will be carried out and board policies will be implemented.

Policy Development

In order to ensure efficient development and implementation of school board policies in the supervisory union, the supervisory union board, or a subcommittee thereof, will determine when school board policies in the supervisory union should be developed or revised. The superintendent will assist the supervisory union board in determining the need for policy development or revision in specific areas and will advise the supervisory union board and member boards within the supervisory union on policy content.

Certain policies that are determined to be “substantially non-discretionary” may be approved and adopted by the supervisory union board on behalf of the member boards following a single reading of the policy and without additional consideration by the member boards. “Substantially non-discretionary” policies are those policies that are drafted to ensure strict compliance with a statutory act and its language, and as such may not be revised by any board. The superintendent is responsible for identifying to the supervisory union board when a substantially non-discretionary policy is proposed for adoption or revision.

When the supervisory union board has approved a policy for distribution to the member boards of the supervisory union, the policy will be distributed by the superintendent for consideration by each member board. The adopting board will seek appropriate public comment and administrative guidance as it considers proposals for policy development or revision. Comment and information may be sought in areas such as the following.

1. The specific need for the policy
2. The scope of the policy with regard to establishing appropriate roles for the board and the administration
3. The effect of the proposed policy on administrators, students, teaching staff and the community

4. Samples of similar policies of other boards
5. Applicable provisions of state and federal law
6. The anticipated costs and benefits of implementing, enforcing and evaluating the proposed policy

A District Board may develop policies that apply only to its own District. In such a case, the District Board will work with the Superintendent in development of the policy, and the Superintendent retains the right and duty to recommend such a District policy for adoption by the Supervisory Union Board and other member Districts.

Policy Adoption

Except in the case of substantially non-discretionary policies, as previously defined, after consideration of the comments and information provided by interested individuals, the adopting board may adopt or revise a policy developed by the supervisory union board. A policy may be adopted at a regular or special meeting of the school board, after the board has given at least 10 days prior public notice of its intent to adopt the policy and has stated in its notice the substance of the proposed policy.

Policy Dissemination, Administration & Review

Dissemination

When policies are adopted, the Superintendent will publish and make them available to the public, students, and school personnel.

A copy of the District policy manual will be available during the normal working day in the office and/or library of each school within the District. The student handbook will include Board policies related to student activities and conduct. The teacher handbook will include Board policies related to teachers' responsibilities.

Administration Policies will be administered through procedures and directives of the Superintendent of schools and members of the management team.

Policy Review The superintendent will advise the supervisory union board when revisions to adopted policies are required or otherwise appropriate. In addition, the superintendent will develop a policy review schedule to ensure that all policies are reviewed at least once every five years and, if necessary or appropriate, revised or repealed in response to changing legislation or other altered circumstances.

Date Warned : 5/18/2020-CCSU, 8/24/2020-Cabot, 9/01/2020- Danville, 9/7/2020- Peacham, 9/8/2020- Twinfield, 9/14/2020-CCSD

Date Adopted : 9/21/2020- CCSU, 10/12/2020-CCSD, 10/13/2020-Twinfield, 10/26/2020-Cabot 10/27/2020- Danville 9/7/2020-Peacham

LegalReference(s): Cross Reference :

16 V.S.A. §563

(1) *(Powers of school boards)*