

School District Organization

School District Legal Status

The People and Their School District

The public schools belong to the people. The people govern the schools under rights guaranteed to them under the Constitution and statues of the State of Illinois. The people exercise their proprietorship through the elective process. They elect state and federal representatives who establish - through the Legislature and the Congress - the framework of law within which the schools operate. The people select a school board to represent them and to determine local educational plans and policy and to establish publicly-endorsed educational goals and objectives. The School District 20 Board of Education functions as an agency of the public within this framework.

The people are the ultimate governors of public education and the Board is directly accountable to the people. But, the accountability is a shared responsibility involving students, teachers, and other employees, the Superintendent of Schools, and the general public.

District Legal Status

The Illinois Constitution requires the State to provide for an efficient system of high quality public educational institutions and services in order to achieve the educational development of all persons to the limits of their capabilities.

The General Assembly has implemented this mandate through the creation of school districts. The District is governed by the laws for school districts having a population of not fewer than 1,000 and not more than 500,000.

The School District constitutes a body corporate that possesses all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes, and in that name may sue and be sued, purchase, hold and sell personal property and real estate, and enter into such obligations as are authorized by law.

LEGAL REF.: Ill. Const., Art. X, Sec. 1; and
Illinois School Code, Sec. 10-1, *et seq.* (105 ILCS 5/10-1, *et seq.*).

CROSS REF.: 2.10 and 2.20

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