

Bylaws of the Board

Policies

Introduction

Orange Board of Education policies translate beliefs and desires of elected officials into action through the Superintendent of Schools and the school staff. Except for specific meeting decisions, policies are the Boards' best means of shaping district education through specifying in Board policy “what will be done.” The Superintendent's administrative regulations provide the administrative “how it will be done” to accompany Orange Board of Education policies

Policies also make it clear, at least by implication, that the Superintendent is expected to follow the direction of the entire Orange Board as expressed through its policies. On a daily basis, Orange Board policies, except for bylaws, are primarily for the guidance of the Superintendent of Schools and his/her staff. It is, however, the Board's responsibility to ensure the Superintendent uses policies in making decisions; it is, similarly, the Superintendent's responsibility to insist that both policies and their amplifying regulations are followed by everyone in the school system

Organization and Contents of Policy Manuals

Policy manuals contain three basic types of entries — Orange Board of Education policies, Superintendent of Schools regulations, and Orange Board of Education bylaws:

1. Policies are guides for discretionary action by the Superintendent of Schools and staff; not all policies require administrative regulations;
2. Regulations are the Superintendent's amplifications of Orange Board policies into specific staff actions; not all administrative regulations require policies;
3. Bylaws are rules governing the Orange Board of Education's internal operations.

Development of Board Policies

The development of sound educational policies is one of the primary duties of the Orange Board of Education. Policies serve to promote democratic and responsive school governance and constitute a major method by which the Board exercises its leadership. Policies are guides for discretionary administrative action by the Superintendent of Schools and his/her staff. Policy development and revision should follow these principles:

1. Policies and regulations shall be given high priorities by the Orange Board and by the Superintendent of Schools;

2. Many people at different levels shall be given opportunities to participate in development and review of policies and regulations;
3. Procedures for development and revision of policies and regulations shall be clear and well understood; participants shall know their roles and authority; lines of communication shall be observed;
4. Use of policies and regulations as guides to action shall be stressed at all organizational levels, and policy or regulatory violations shall not be overlooked or condoned;
5. Policy and regulatory effectiveness shall be monitored regularly by the Orange Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools, and by other staff members;
6. Orange Board members and administrators shall guard against intrinsic problems of policies and regulations, (rigidity and inflexibility, bureaucratic or insensitive administration of policy, etc.).

Anyone may propose a new policy or policy changes — members of the community, the staff, students, the Superintendent, or Orange Board members. Proposed new policies and policy changes from staff shall be forwarded to the Superintendent for presentation to the Orange Policy Sub Committee. Although the Orange Board encourages and welcomes community, staff and student involvement, only the Board may establish policy.

The Superintendent is encouraged to submit written recommendations for new policies and for revision of existing policies as necessary for the effective operation of the Orange Public Schools.

Approved policies shall be in writing and coded according to the policy codification system approved by the Orange Board, and made part of the official policy manual maintained by the Superintendent. Policy manuals and copies of new and changed policies shall be distributed to all members of the Orange Board of Education and school administrators, and shall be made available to the staff, students, and general public.

Adoption and/or Amendment of Board of Education Policies

Procedure for the adoption of a new policy or the amendment of existing policy shall be:

1. Upon referral to the policy committee, the committee will develop a statement of policy or change of existing policy based on the following:
 - a. Suggestions and requests from Orange Board members;
 - b. Recommendations from the Superintendent of Schools;
 - c. Statutory requirements;

d. Citizen input.

2. The Policy Sub-Committee shall present a policy statement, or revised policy statement, with its recommendations to the Orange Board at a regular Board meeting. No action shall be taken at this presentation meeting.

3. The Board shall act on proposed policies at regular meetings of the Board at which time amendments to the policy proposals may be made and the policies approved if the changes are not a departure from the essence of the policy proposal. If the proposed changes are major, a policy should be brought back for a second review at the next regular meeting with a further recommendation from the Orange Board's policy committee. Proposed policy changes approved by majority vote of the Orange Board shall take immediate effect.

4. For proposed policy statements, new or revised, because of changes or additions to Connecticut General Statutes or State Board of Education Regulations, approval may be given at the initial presentation.

Formal adoption of policies and/or amendments of policies shall be recorded in the minutes of the Orange Board meeting. Only those written statements so adopted and recorded shall be regarded as official policies.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[10-221](#) Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies, and procedures.

Bylaw adopted by the Board: April 15, 2013