

ROLE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

In this series of the board policy manual, the board defines the role and the employment of school district administrators. Policies in the 400 Series, "Employees," also apply to administrators unless a more specific policy exists in the 300 Series, "Administration."

School district administrators have been given a great opportunity and responsibility to manage the school district, to provide educational leadership, and to implement the educational philosophy of the school district. They are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the school district. In carrying out these operations, the administrators are guided by board policies, the law, the needs of the students, and the wishes of the citizens in the school district community.

It is the responsibility of the administrators to implement and enforce the policies of the board, to oversee employees, to monitor educational issues confronting the school district, and to inform the board about school district operations.

While the board holds the superintendent ultimately responsible for these duties, the principals are more directly responsible for educational results, for the administration of the school facilities and for the employees.

The board and the administration will work together to share information and decisions under the management team concept.

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MANAGEMENT

The board and the administrators will work together in making decisions and setting goals for the school district. This effort is designed to obtain, share, and use information to solve problems, make decisions, and formulate school district policies and regulations.

It is the responsibility of each administrator to fully participate in the management of the school district by investigating, analyzing, and expressing their views on issues. Those board members or administrators with special expertise or knowledge of an issue may be called upon to provide information. Each board member and administrator will support the decisions reached on the issues confronting the school district.

The board is responsible for making the final decision in matters pertaining to the school district.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to develop guidelines for cooperative decision-making.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code § 279.8 (2001).

Cross Reference: 301 Administrative Structure

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MANAGEMENT TEAM

The board considers all those who have a role in the recruitment or release of employees to be part of the management team. The management team is headed by the superintendent. The superintendent will convene meetings to discuss school district policies, administrative procedures and other business brought to the superintendent's attention.

The management team will meet with the board upon the board's request or superintendent's recommendation to review overall operations of the school district and conditions affecting the management team. The management team will have no relationship to the formal negotiating unit. In the event a member or members of the management team are unable to resolve a problem, a committee of one board member, one management team member, and the superintendent will investigate the circumstances and make a recommendation. If the recommendation does not settle the matter, the board and the management team will meet to resolve the matter. The board may seek the advice of outside management consultants to assist in resolving the matter.

NOTE: If this description of the management team does not reflect a school district's management team, this policy should be amended to reflect the actual description.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code § 279.8 (2001).
281 I.A.C. 12.3(3).

Cross Reference: 301 Administrative Structure

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SUPERINTENDENT QUALIFICATIONS, RECRUITMENT, APPOINTMENT

The board will employ a superintendent to serve as the chief executive officer of the board, to conduct the daily operations of the school district, and to implement board policy with the power and duties prescribed by the board and the law.

The board will consider applicants that meet or exceed the standards set by the Iowa Department of Education and the qualifications established in the job description for the superintendent position. In employing a superintendent, the board will consider the qualifications, credentials and records of the applicants without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability. In keeping with the law, however, the board will consider the veteran status of the applicants. The board will look closely at the training, experience, skill and demonstrated competence of qualified applicants in making its final decision.

In choosing a superintendent, the board will also consider the school district's educational philosophy, financial situation, organizational structure, education programs, and other factors deemed relevant by the board.

The board may contract for assistance in the search for a superintendent.

Legal Reference: 29 U.S.C. §§ 621-634 (1994).
42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e *et seq.* (1994).
Iowa Code §§ 21.5(1)(i); 35C; 216; 279.8, .20 (2001).
281 I.A.C. 12.4(4).
1980 Op. Att'y Gen. 367.

Cross Reference: 200.2 Powers of the Board of Directors
200.3 Responsibilities of the Board of Directors
301 Administrative Structure
302 Superintendent

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SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT AND CONTRACT NONRENEWAL

The length of the contract for employment between the superintendent and the board is determined by the board. The contract will begin on July 1 and end on June 30. The contract will state the terms of employment.

The first two years of a contract issued to a newly employed superintendent is considered a probationary period. The board may waive this period or the probationary period may be extended for an additional year upon the consent of the superintendent. In the event of termination of a probationary or nonprobationary contract, the board will afford the superintendent appropriate due process, including notice by May 15. The superintendent and board may mutually agree to terminate the superintendent's contract at any time.

If a superintendent's contract is not being renewed by the board, the contract will be extended automatically for additional one-year periods beyond the end of its term until it is modified or terminated as mutually agreed to by the parties or until the superintendent's contract is terminated consistent with statutory termination procedures.

It is the responsibility of the board to provide the contract for the superintendent.

If the superintendent wishes to resign, to be released from a contract, or to retire, the superintendent must comply with board policies dealing with retirement, release or resignation.

NOTE: May 15 is the date established by law. The board may select an earlier date but not a later date.

Legal Reference: Cook v Plainfield Community School District, 301 N.W.2d 771 (Iowa App. 1980).
Board of Education of Fort Madison Community School District v. Youel, 282 N.W.2d 677 (Iowa 1979).
Briggs v Board of Directors of Hinton Community School District, 282 N.W.2d 740 (Iowa 1979).
Luse v. Waco Community School District of Henry Co., 258 Iowa 1087, 141 N.W.2d 607 (1966).
Iowa Code §§ 21.5(1)(i); 279.20, .22-.25 (2001).
281 I.A.C. 12.4(4).

Cross Reference: 302 Superintendent

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