

SCHOOL COMMITTEE POWERS AND DUTIES

The School Committees have all the powers conferred upon them by state law and must perform those duties mandated by the state. These include the responsibility and right to determine policies and practices and to employ a staff to implement their directions for the proper education of the children of the community.

The Committees take a broad view of their functions. It sees them as:

1. **Legislative or policymaking.** The Committees are responsible for the development of policy as guides for administrative action and for employing a Superintendent who will implement its policies.
2. **Appraisal.** The Committees are responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of their policies and their implementation.
3. **Provision of financial resources.** The Committees are responsible for adoption of a budget that will enable the school system to carry out the Committees' policies.
4. **Public relations.** The Committees are responsible for providing adequate and direct means for keeping the local citizenry informed about the schools and for keeping themselves and the school staff informed about the needs and wishes of the public.
5. **Educational planning and evaluation.** The Committees are responsible for establishing educational goals and policies that will guide the Committees and staff for the administration and continuing improvement of the educational programs provided by the School Districts.

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 71:37 specifically, but powers and duties of School Committees are established throughout the Massachusetts General Laws.

CROSS REF.: BB, School Committee Legal Status