

# **POLICY REFERENCE MANUAL**

## **Section 100**

### **District Organization and Basic Commitments**

- 101            Legal Status of the School District
- 102            Educational Philosophy of the District
- 103            Equal Educational Opportunity
- 104            Educational and Operational Planning
- 104.01        Annual School Census

LEGAL STATUS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Nebraska law authorizes the creation of public schools known a Common Schools System. As part of this Common Schools System, this school district is a school corporation created and organized under Nebraska law. This school district shall be known as the Bruning-Davenport USD School District. The school district, as a body corporate, possesses all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes.

This school corporation is located in Thayer County, and its affairs are conducted by elected school officials, the Bruning-Davenport USD School District Board of Education. This school corporation has local control over school matters in the territory of the school district, as outlined by the applicable state statutes.

Legal Reference:               Neb. Constitution, Art. VII, Sect. 1, 2  
                                      Neb. Statute 79-405  
  79-501 et seq.  
                                      Languis v. Deboer, 181 Neb 36 (1966)

Cross Reference:               201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

As a school corporation of Nebraska, the Bruning-Davenport USD School District, acting through its School Board, is dedicated to promoting an equal opportunity for a quality public education to its students within the limitations of the school district's ability and willingness to furnish financial support to provide for students in cooperation with their parents and the school district community, the opportunity to develop a healthy social, intellectual, emotional, and physical self-concept in a learning environment that provides guidance to and encourages critical thinking in the students for a lifetime.

The board endeavors through the dedication of the school district's resources, to encourage students, who come to the school district from a variety of backgrounds, to look forward to the time when they will have jobs, homes, families, places in the school district community, and attain recognition as individuals. In order to achieve this goal, the board will seek qualified employees dedicated to development of their professional skills for the betterment of the education program and for the expertise for educational productivity.

Instruction and curriculum are the key elements of a public education. Critical thinking and problem-solving skills that will assist the students' preparation for life shall be instructed as part of a sequentially coordinated curriculum. The school district strives to prepare students for employment, to discover and nurture creative talent and to prepare them to meet and cope with social change in an atmosphere conducive to learning.

The support and involvement of the home and the school district community are essential to achieve educational excellence in the school district. The school district strives to maintain an active relationship with the home and the school district community to create within the students an awareness of dignity and worth of the individual, civic responsibility and respect for authority.

Legal Reference:               Neb. Statute 79-526  
  79-701  
  NDE Rule 10.004.01, .02

Cross Reference               103    Equal Educational Opportunity  
  104    Educational and Operational Planning  
  205    School Board Policy Process  
  601    Goals and Objectives of Instructional Plan  
  603    Curriculum Development

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_



## EDUCATIONAL AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING

At least every five years the board shall conduct an in-depth needs assessment, soliciting information from business, labor, industry, higher education and community members, regarding their expectations for adequate student preparation. One purpose of this assessment is to assist the board in developing and evaluating a statement of philosophy for the school district. The second purpose of this assessment is to determine the areas of student performance, knowledge, and attitudes and the areas of school district operations that are judged to be most crucial in meeting school or school district goals. As part of its assessment, the board shall develop a process for communicating with business, industry, labor and higher education regarding their expectations for adequate student preparation. The statement of philosophy shall describe the board's beliefs about topics which shall include the nature of learning, the purpose of the school district, the scope of educational experiences that the school district should provide, the nature of its learners and a description of a desirable learning atmosphere.

In conjunction with the in-depth needs assessment of the school district, the board shall authorize the appointment of a committee representing administrators, employees, parents, students and community members, to make recommendations and assist the board in determining the priorities of the school district in addition to the basic skills areas of the education program.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to ensure the school district community is informed of the board's policies, programs and goals and has an opportunity to express their thoughts and suggestions for the operation of the school district. The superintendent shall report annually to the board about the means used to keep the community informed.

As a result of the board and committee's work, the board shall determine major educational needs and rank them in priority order; develop long-range goals and plans to meet the needs; establish and implement short-range and intermediate-range plans to meet the goals and to attain the desired levels of student performance; evaluate progress toward meeting the goals and maintain a record of progress under the plan that includes reports of student performance and results of school improvement projects; and annually report the school district's progress made under the plan to the committee, community and Nebraska Department of Education.

Legal Reference:                   Neb. Statute 79-526  
  79-701, 702  
  79-729  
  79-1301  
  NDE Rule 10-004.01A1  
  10-004.02A1  
  10-004.07

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_

Cross Reference

- 102 Educational Philosophy of the District
- 201.01 Board Powers and Responsibilities
- 203.06 Board Committees
- 604.01 Basic Instruction Program
- 902.01 Buildings and Sites Long Range Planning

ANNUAL SCHOOL CENSUS

The board will direct the superintendent to establish a permanent, continuing census of school children in the district. A list of the names of district taxpayers and all children from birth through twenty years shall be maintained at the superintendent's office.

Legal Reference:           Neb. Statute 79-524  
  79-537 (Class V)  
  79-578

Cross Reference:           607.1 Class Size - Class Grouping  
                                  1002 District Annual Report

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_