

The Local School Board - An Overview

The local board of education has one of the most important responsibilities in our society - helping plan the education of the children in the community. Its decisions affect the lives of students and their parents, the livelihoods of those the district employs and the economic well-being of the community. The local school board is a uniquely American institution. Serving on a board of education is a crucial aspect of grass roots democracy and a heavy responsibility for the more than 97,000 individuals who serve on boards nationally.

School boards derive their power and authority from the State Constitution and the statutes of the State of Connecticut. Accordingly, a local school board acts as an agent of the state government with all the authority and limitations imposed by the General Assembly and the state constitution.

More than 1400 dedicated citizens guide Connecticut public school districts. School districts serve nearly 500,000 children and employ more than 60,000 people. Unlike school board members in many other states, Connecticut school board members receive no compensation for their service, receiving only the satisfaction that comes from providing an indispensable public service.