

BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MISSION-GOALS-OBJECTIVES

SERIES 0000

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Philosophy of the Bridgeport Public Schools

Enduring Value Statements

We believe our Greater Bridgeport Community must be committed to educational excellence and that each of us has a personal responsibility to contribute to such excellence. We shall persevere in this commitment by honoring these values.

We will:

1. Support one another;
2. Maintain positive and respectful relationships;
3. Support an atmosphere of trust, empathy, honesty and integrity;
4. Appreciate and embrace our diversity;
5. Maximize everyone's propensity by exercising equity, as we share with each other access to all necessary resources and information; and
6. Support one another, listen to all voices and engage responsible parties in decision making.

BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bridgeport , Connecticut

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Ethical Practices

I. Introduction

A. Limits of Authority

The Bridgeport Board of Education is the unit of authority. Apart from their function as part of the unit, Board members have no individual authority. Individually, a Board member may not commit the district to any policy, act or expenditure. The Board member does not represent a factional segment for the community, but is rather a part of the body which represents and acts for the community as a whole.

No individual member of the Board, by virtue of holding office, shall exercise any administrative responsibility with respect to the schools, nor as an individual command the services of any school employee.

B. Methods of Operation

The Bridgeport Board of Education shall concern itself primarily with broad questions of policy and not with administrative details. The Board shall hold the Superintendent accountable for administering policies enacted by the Board.

II. Board Ethical Practices

Each member of the Bridgeport Board of Education will commit to and comply with the following code of ethics:

1. I will be a staunch advocate of high quality free public education for all Bridgeport children and their families. In fulfilling my responsibilities, I will think of "children first".
2. I will strive to create public schools which meet the individual educational needs of all children in Bridgeport.
3. I will work unremittingly to help my community understand the importance of proper support for public education, whether it be in providing adequate finances, optimum facilities, staffing and resources, or better educational programs for children.
4. I will join with my Board, staff, community and students in becoming fully informed about the nature, value and direction of educational best practices in our society; this includes supporting cultural and ethnic diversity. I will support needed change in our schools.

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Ethical Practices (continued)

II. Board Ethical Practices (continued)

5. I will strive to ensure that the community is fully and accurately informed about our schools, and will try to interpret community aspirations to the school staff.
6. I will recognize that my responsibility is not to "run the schools" through administration, but together with my fellow Board members, to see that they are well-run through effective policies.
7. I will attempt to confine my Board action to policy-making, planning and evaluation.
8. I will arrive at conclusions only after discussing all aspects of the issue at hand with my fellow Board members in a meeting. I will respect the opinions of others, and abide by the principle of majority-rule.
9. I will recognize that authority rests only with the whole Board assembled in a meeting and will make no personal promises nor take any private action which may compromise the Board.
10. I will acknowledge that the Board represents the entire school community, and will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interests or partisan political groups. I will never use my position on the Board for gain of myself, relatives, or my friends.
11. I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to schools which, if disclosed, might needlessly injure individuals or the schools.
12. I will insist that all school business transactions be open and ethical.
13. I will strive to appoint the best professional leader available when a vacancy exists in the Superintendent's position, and the best trained technical and professional personnel available, upon recommendation by the Superintendent.
14. I will support and protect school personnel in the proper performance of their duties. I will strive to ensure that all personnel have not only the requisite responsibilities, but the necessary authority to perform effectively.
15. I will refer all complaints through the proper "chain of command" within the system.

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Ethical Practices (continued)

II. Board Ethical Practices (continued)

16. I will treat my fellow Board members, staff and all members of the public with respect and dignity at all times, without personal attacks or insults.

17. I will comply with the Board's established ground rules at all meetings and recognize the authority of the chair.

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A. School District Legal Status

State law (10-240) provides that each town, through its Board of Education, shall maintain the control of all public schools within its limits. For this purpose, each town is considered a school district and shall have all the powers and duties of school districts provided by law.

The legal name of the district is the Bridgeport Public Schools. It is a body corporate and shall have all the powers accruing to it by law. (10-241)

Legal Reference: United State Constitution, Tenth Amendment
 Connecticut State Constitution, Art. VIII, Sec. I
 Connecticut General Statutes
 10-15 Towns to maintain schools
 10-240 Control of schools
 10-241 Powers of school districts

Mission - Goals - Objectives

B. Mission Statement

The mission of the Bridgeport Public Schools and its supporting community is to graduate all students “college ready” and prepared to succeed in life.

Mission - Goals - Objectives

Policies for Bridgeport Public Schools

The Board of Education shall maintain a manual of policies as the base for the governance of the school system. The policies must at all times be in harmony with applicable laws.

All of the Board of Education's policies shall, in addition, have their sources in the Board-adopted purposes, goals and objectives pertaining both to student learning and school system operations.

The Board of Education views its policies as aids to decision making and will to the best of its abilities make all its actions consistent with those policies.