

## Chapter 11 **New Jersey School Boards Association Policy**

The Task Force on Student Achievement has identified five areas of New Jersey School Boards Association policy that do not adequately address the Association's commitment to advancing student achievement. These policies were adopted by the NJSBA Delegate Assembly, some as long ago as 1982, and have undergone periodic "sunset review."

The Task Force recommends the revisions to the Association's Manual of Positions and Policies on Education described below.

### **CONCEPTS AND ROLES IN ADMINISTRATION** (File Code 2000)

#### **Responsibilities of the Board of Education**

*Current Policy Language:*

- A. NJSBA believes that two of the most significant responsibilities of the board are the hiring of a chief school administrator and annually reviewing the performance of the chief school administrator in implementing the district's educational goals, vision and direction.
- B. NJSBA believes the board of education should annually review the performance of the board secretary concerning the functions where he/she directly reports to the board. [Authority: DA 11/03-ER (A), DA 5/01-SR, DA 5/06-SR, DA 5/11-SR, DA 12/16-SR]

*Recommended Language:*

- A. NJSBA believes that the primary focus of the local school district must be the advancement of academic achievement for all students and that effective governance by a local board of education, working in concert with its chief school administrator, is essential to ensuring educational opportunity and growth.
- B. NJSBA believes that two of the local school board's most significant governance functions are hiring the chief school administrator and implementing the district's educational goals, vision, and direction.
- C. NJSBA believes the board of education should annually review the performance of the board secretary concerning the functions where he/she directly reports to the board.

### **RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND PLANNING** (File Code 2240)

#### **Effective Schools Research**

*Current Policy Language:*

Effective Schools Research

The NJSBA believes to promote greater student achievement local boards of education should adopt policies, programs, and practices that would address the critical organizational, managerial, and school climate factors identified in effective schools research. [Authority: DA 12/82-CR Urban Education, BD 11/84-CR Extended School Year, DA 11/95-SR, DA 11/96-SR, DA5/11-SR]

*Recommended Language:*

Research on Effective Education

The NJSBA believes that, to promote the achievement of all students, local boards of education should adopt policies that address the curricular, organizational, and managerial factors identified in research on effective teaching and learning, school culture and climate, and other critical areas.

**CONCEPTS AND ROLES IN INSTRUCTION** (File Code 6000)

**Commitment to Quality Education**

*Current Policy Language:*

The NJSBA believes all children should receive the highest quality education.

[Authority: DA 6/79-32, DA 6/9-SR, DA 11/02-SR, DA 11/07- SR, DA 11/12-SR]

*Recommended Language:*

- A. The NJSBA believes all children should receive the highest quality education.
- B. The NJSBA believes that the federal and state governments and local school boards should provide the resources necessary to advance student academic success and close achievement gaps.
- C. The NJSBA believes that local boards of education should adopt policies that promote the success of all students by supporting effective practices in curriculum, school culture, management, and organization.

**GOVERNANCE** (File Code 9300)

*This series does not currently include an overarching statement on the role of the local school board in promoting student achievement.*

*Recommended Addition:*

Effective Governance

- A. NJSBA believes effective governance of public education, carried out by well-trained local school boards, can have a direct impact on student achievement.
- B. NJSBA believes that local boards of education should adopt policies that enable their professional staffs to implement programs and practices that advance the achievement of all students and result in the efficient functioning of schools.

**FORMULATION, ADOPTION, AMENDMENT OF POLICIES** (File Code 9311)

**School Board Policy**

*Current Policy Language:*

- A. The NJSBA believes that sound school board policy is essential to the successful and efficient functioning of the public schools.
- B. The NJSBA believes that in order to meet legal requirements and to provide effective direction for the operation of the district and its schools, local district policies should be reviewed on an ongoing basis. Boards should involve stakeholders, including members of the community in the policy development and review process when appropriate. [Authority: DA 5/76-CR (Policy Advisory), DA 12/82-CR (Urban Education), DA 6/93-SR, DA 11/98-SR]
- C. NJSBA believes that the role of the State Department of Education in approving local district policy should not exceed the requirement of administrative code or encroach on the authority of local boards of education regarding the management and operation of the district. [Authority: DA 12/87-5, DA 6/93-SR, DA 11/98-SR, DA 5/03-SR, DA 5/08-SR, DA 5/13-SR]

*Recommended Language:*

- A. NJSBA believes that sound school board policy is essential to the successful and efficient functioning of the public schools and to the advancement of the academic achievement of all students.
- B. NJSBA believes that local boards of education should regularly review their policies to ensure that they encourage programs and practices that promote educational opportunity and success for all students, meet legal requirements, and provide effective direction for the operation of the district and its schools. Boards should involve all stakeholders, including parents and other members of the school community, in the policy development and review process when appropriate.
- C. NJSBA believes that the role of the State Department of Education in approving local district policy should not exceed the requirements of administrative code or encroach on the authority of local boards of education regarding the management and operation of the district.

*Rationale: The recommended policy language is consistent with the New Jersey School Boards Association's current mission statement and the findings and recommendations of the Task Force on Student Achievement.*

## **RECOMMENDATION**

### **Chapter 11 – New Jersey School Boards Association Policy**

#### **FOR THE NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION:**

- 78.** Adopt the revised and additional policy language listed in this chapter, which is consistent with NJSBA's current mission statement and the findings and recommendations of the Task Force on Student Achievement.