

ADMINISTRATION GOALS

It is the intent of the School Committee that the District employ qualified personnel to administer the school system efficiently and to require the Superintendent to organize the administration in a manner that will make clear the functions of each position and the relationships among them.

The Superintendent will establish clear lines of communication, both vertically and horizontally, and will form any staff councils or committees needed to provide for efficient conduct of school business. In order to engage in this process in an orderly and effective fashion, each individual and group will be given particular, clear-cut responsibilities. Channels will be established so that the recommendations and decisions of each group can be heard and reviewed by the chief administrative officer concerned, and, where appropriate, by the Superintendent and School Committee.

The organization and administration of the schools will balance responsibility with commensurate authority, subject to the reserved legal powers of the School Committee. This means that a staff member, when assigned a responsibility or a position, will be given the authority to make the decisions necessary to perform the assigned tasks.

For the schools to operate effectively, each administrative officer will be responsible and accountable for making a plan of development for all staff assigned to his/her area of operation.

SOURCE: MASC

ADOPTED: December 7, 2017

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

The Committee shall employ a Superintendent of Schools and fix his/her compensation. The Superintendent shall act in accordance with Mass. General Laws and shall perform such other duties consistent with this section as the Committee may determine. He/she shall also prepare such reports as may be required by the State Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education and shall submit materials for the Committee's annual report to the Selectmen in sufficient time for printing in the annual report.

SOURCE: MASC July 2016

LEGAL REFS: M.G.L. [71:59](#), [72:3](#)

ADOPTED: December 7, 2017

SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT

The Committee, upon the appointment of a candidate to be Superintendent will enter into a written contract with the Superintendent which will meet the requirements of law and will protect the rights of both the Committee and the Superintendent. In accordance with said contract or, in the absence of specific contract language, by vote of the members, the Committee may choose to negotiate a successor contract with an incumbent Superintendent.

SOURCE: MASC July 2016

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. [71:41](#); [71:42](#)

ADOPTED: December 7, 2017

EVALUATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Evaluation can serve the purpose of helping educators and educational leaders continually improve their practice.

Through evaluation of the Superintendent, the School Committee will strive to accomplish the following:

1. Ensure that the efforts of the Superintendent are focused on District goals and that the standards of professional practice established by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) are met by the Superintendent.
2. Ensure all Committee members and the Superintendent are in agreement and clear on the role of the Superintendent and the immediate priorities among his/her responsibilities.
3. Provide administrative leadership of excellence for the school system.
4. Develop a respectful and productive working relationship between the School Committee and Superintendent.

The School Committee and Superintendent will periodically develop a set of performance objectives based on the needs of the school system and in keeping with DESE regulations for evaluation of the Superintendent. The Superintendent's performance will be reviewed in accordance with these specified goals and standards. Additional objectives will be established according to the evaluation cycle agreed upon with the Superintendent.

SOURCE: MASC July 2016

LEGAL REF: 603CMR35:00

ADOPTED: December 7, 2017

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION PLAN

The School Committee expects the Superintendent to establish clear understandings on the part of all personnel of the working relationships in the school system.

Personnel will be expected to refer matters requiring administrative action to the administrator to whom they are responsible. In cases of harassment or discrimination, reports may be made to the Director of Pupil and Personnel Services. The administrator will refer such matters to the next higher administrative authority when necessary.

It is expected that the established lines of authority will serve most purposes. But all personnel will have the right to appeal any decision made by an administrative officer through established grievance procedures.

Additionally, lines of authority do not restrict in any way the cooperative, sensible working together of all staff members at all levels in order to develop the best possible school programs and services. The established lines of authority represent direction of authority and responsibility; when the staff is working together, the lines represent avenues for a two-way flow of ideas to improve the program and operations of the school system.

SOURCE: MASC

REVISED: November 29, 2017

ADOPTED: December 7, 2017

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCILS, CABINETS AND COMMITTEES

The Superintendent may establish such permanent or temporary councils, cabinets and committees as he/she deems necessary for assuring staff participation in decision making, for implementing policies and procedures and for the improvement of the educational program.

Functioning in an advisory capacity, all councils, cabinets and committees created by the Superintendent may make recommendations for submission to the School Committee through the Superintendent. Such groups will exercise no inherent authority. Authority for establishing policy remains with the Committee and authority for implementing policy remains with the Superintendent.

The membership, composition and responsibilities of administrative councils, cabinets and committees will be defined by the Superintendent and may be changed at his/her discretion. However, the School Committee wishes to be kept informed of the establishment and dissolution of these groups as well as their membership and their purpose.

Expenses incurred by such groups for consultative services, materials, and any investigative travel will be paid by the school system, but only within budgetary allotments and when approved in advance by the Superintendent.

SOURCE: MASC July 2016

ADOPTED: December 7, 2017

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

The Superintendent has responsibility for reviewing, evaluating, and carrying out, through procedures, the policies established by the School Committee.

The policies developed by the Committee and the procedures developed to implement policy are designed to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the school system. Consequently, it is expected that all School Committee employees and students will carry them out.

Administrators and supervisors are responsible for informing staff members in their schools, departments, or divisions of existing policies and procedures and for seeing that they are implemented in the spirit intended.

SOURCE: MASC July 2016

REVISED: November 29, 2017

ADOPTED: December 7, 2017

DEVELOPMENT OF PROCEDURES

The Superintendent will be responsible for specifying required actions and designing the detailed arrangements under which the school system will be operated in accordance with School Committee policy. These detailed arrangements will be designed to implement policies, goals, and objectives of the Committee and will be one of the means by which the school system will be governed.

In the development of procedures, the Superintendent may involve at the planning stage those who would be affected by the procedures, including staff members, students, parents/guardians, and the public. He/she must weigh with care the counsel given by representatives of staff, student and community organizations. He/she will inform the Committee of such counsel in presenting pertinent reports of procedures and in presenting procedures for Committee approval.

As long as the Superintendent operates within the guidelines of policy adopted by the Committee, he/she may issue procedures without prior Committee approval unless Committee action is required by law, or the Committee has specifically asked that certain types of procedures be given Committee approval, or the Superintendent recommends Committee approval in light of strong community attitudes or probable staff reactions.

SOURCE: MASC July 2016

ADOPTED: December 7, 2017

APPROVAL OF HANDBOOKS AND DIRECTIVES

The law directs that in each school building containing the grades nine to twelve, inclusive, the Principal, in consultation with the school council, shall prepare and distribute to each student a handbook setting forth the rules pertaining to conduct of students. The school council shall review the handbook each spring to consider changes in the disciplinary policy to take effect in September.

It is essential that the contents of all handbooks conform to School Committee policies. It is also important that all handbooks bearing the name of the school system or one of its schools be of a quality that reflects credit on the school department. Therefore, the Committee requires handbooks to be approved prior to publication.

Committee approval will be necessary for any handbooks that pertain to required standards of conduct for employees or students so that their contents may be accorded the status of Committee-approved policy or regulation. The Superintendent will use his/her judgment as to whether other specific handbooks need Committee approval; however, all student/parent handbooks published will be made available to the Committee for informational purposes.

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:37H

REVISED: November 29, 2017

ADOPTED: December 7, 2017

APPROVAL OF HANDBOOKS AND DIRECTIVES

Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary all student handbooks shall contain the following provisions:

1. Any student who is found on school premises or at school-sponsored or school related events, including athletic games, in possession of a dangerous weapon or a controlled substance, may be subject to expulsion from school by the Principal.
2. Any student who assaults any employee of the School District may be subject to expulsion from school by the Principal.
3. Any student who is charged with a violation of either (1) or (2) above shall be notified in writing of their opportunity for a hearing, provided, however that the student may have representation, along with the opportunity to present evidence and witnesses at said hearing before the Principal. After said hearing the Principal may decide to suspend rather than expel a student.
4. Any student who has been expelled shall have the right to appeal to the Superintendent.
5. When a student is expelled under the provisions listed above and applies for admission to another school for acceptance, the Superintendent of the sending school shall notify the Superintendent of the receiving school of the reasons for the pupil's expulsion.

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:37H

REVISED: November 29, 2017

ADOPTED: December 7, 2017

ADMINISTRATION IN POLICY ABSENCE

In an extraordinary circumstance, when action must be taken within the school system where the Ipswich School Committee has provided no guides for administrative action, the Superintendent will have the power to act.

His/her decision, however, will be subject to review by the School Committee at its next regular meeting. It will be the duty of the Superintendent to inform the School Committee promptly of such action and of the need for policy.

Proposed: August 9, 1984

Adopted: August 23, 1984

Reviewed by Policy Subcommittee 9/18/95

Reviewed by Policy Subcommittee November 29, 2017

SOURCE: Ipswich/MASC

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

The School Committee will require reports from the Superintendent concerning conditions of efficiency and needs of the schools.

School building administrators will be required to keep such records and make reports as the Superintendent may direct or require.

Upon receipt of the Superintendent's reports, the Committee will take steps to appraise the effectiveness with which the schools are achieving the educational purposes of the school system.

Because statistical information often has a time value, each administrator will give careful consideration to all procedures related to reports, accounting, and general business matters that are required for the administration of the school program and will make accurate and prompt return on scheduled dates of all required statistical and other information.

SOURCE: MASC

ADOPTED: December 7, 2017

SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT

An annual report covering the diversified activities of the school system and the administration's recommendations for their improvement will be prepared by the Superintendent and presented to the School Committee. Upon Committee approval, the report will be made available to the public and used as one means for informing the parents/guardians, citizens, Commissioner of Education and others of the programs and conditions of the town's public schools.

Established by law and Committee policy

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 72:4

ADOPTED: December 7, 2017