

SCHOOL BOARD LEGAL STATUS

The Constitution of New Hampshire gives to the General Court of New Hampshire the responsibility for maintaining a system of public schools, and authorized the General Court to establish local school boards as the agency of organization and control.

Legally, then, local school boards are instruments of the General Court and derive their authority from the Constitution of New Hampshire, the New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated Relating to Public Schools, and from the regulations of the State Board of Education, which regulations have the force of law in New Hampshire.

The school board is thus controlled by statutes established by the General Court and the State Board of Education, but it also has responsibilities to the local citizenry, the school children, and its employees.

Statutory-Regulatory References:

- RSA 189:1a, Duty to Provide Education
- RSA 194:1-3, School Districts: General Powers and Duties
- RSA 186:5, State Board of Education Powers
- RSA 197:1, General Powers and Duties of School Districts
- N.H. Code of Administrative Rules-Section Ed. 303, Duties of School Boards