## POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

# Legal Status of the Board

### **CORPORATE POWERS**

Section 183 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Kentucky places the responsibility for providing an efficient system of common schools throughout the State on the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Legally, local school boards are instruments of the General Assembly and derive their authority from the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Kentucky Revised Statutes of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and the Regulations of the State Board of Education whose regulations have the effect of law in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

However, by custom and tradition, local school boards have responsibilities to the local citizenry they serve and to the ethical principles of the personnel employed by the district. Recognizing this tri-dimensional concept of the source of authority and responsibility, the Board of Education of Jefferson County is the policy-making body for the Jefferson County Public Schools and serves within the framework provided by law and the will of the local citizenry.

Board members have no authority over school affairs as individuals. They have complete authority within state law, over school affairs when they serve as a legal body. The wisdom and far sightedness of the board's members and the effectiveness and efficiency with which the board, as a corporate body, discharges its duties and obligations determine, to a large degree, the educational level of the citizens of Jefferson County.

- 1. The Jefferson County Public School District shall be made up of the entire geographic area of Jefferson County, Kentucky, with the exception of the area included within the boundaries of the Anchorage Independent School District.
- 2. The Jefferson County Public school dDistrict is under the management and control of the Board of Education consisting The board of education shall consist of seven (7) members. Each member shall be elected by the voters of his/her respective districtdivision on a non-partisan ballot, in a November general election, for a term of four years.
- 3. The bBoard shall always act as a body politic and corporate with perpetual succession. No individual member and no group comprised of less than the full membership shall act to bind the bBoard. Members of the board shall have authority only when acting as a board legally in session. The board shall not be bound in any way by any statement or action on the part of an individual member except when such action or statement is pursuant to specific instruction of the board. Board members have no authority over school affairs as individuals. They have complete authority within state law, over school affairs when they serve as a legal body.
- 4. The Board shall be known as the "Board of Education of Jefferson County, Kentucky."

# Legal Status of the Board

### CORPORATE POWERS (CONTINUED)

5. The Board may sue and be sued; make contracts; expend funds necessary for liability insurance premiums and for the defense of any civil action brought against an individual Board member in his/her official or individual capacity, or both, on account of an act made in the scope and course of his/her performance of legal duties as a Board member; purchase, receive, hold, and sell property; issue its bonds to build and construct improvements; and do all things necessary to accomplish the purposes for which it is created.

### NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

The District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, marital or parental status, political <u>affiliations or beliefs</u>, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, genetic information, or disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to its facilities to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.<sup>2</sup>

Notice of the name, work address and telephone number of the Title IX Coordinator and the Section 504 Coordinator for the District shall be provided to employees, applicants for employment, students, parents/guardians, and other beneficiaries such as participants in activities offered to the public.

### REFERENCES:

<sup>1</sup>KRS 160.160

KRS 160.370

Americans with Disabilities Act
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
42 U.S.C. 200e, Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII
20 U.S.C. 1681, Education Amendments of 1972, Title IX
Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008
20 U.S.C. § 7905 (Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act)

#### **RELATED POLICIES:**

03.113, 03.212, 09.13 03.162, 03.262, 09.42811 05.3, 09.3211