

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In order to help community members better understand the role of school board members, here are answers to some Frequently Asked Questions. Much of this information has been taken from the Illinois Association of School Boards website, www.iasb.com

What is a school board?

Although the ultimate responsibility for education rests with the state of Illinois, the state has delegated much of that responsibility to local school boards. School boards—although elected locally—are state agencies carrying out a state function. While school boards are granted wide latitude in governing their schools, they are subject to numerous state laws and regulations.

What does the board do?

The board employs a superintendent and holds him or her responsible for managing the schools in accordance with state law and the school board's policies. The board monitors progress towards district ends and compliance with written board policies.

How does the board operate?

Because a school board is a governmental body, it can take action only by majority vote at a public meeting. The individual board member has no authority other than the right to cast a vote at such a meeting. A board member who attempts to speak for the entire board, direct members of the staff, or make other individual decisions is acting outside the law.

School board members do not have offices in the school buildings, they serve without pay, and they are prohibited by law from having a significant financial interest in any business transaction by the school district.