

# DISTRICT OR-1 POLICY REFERENCE MANUAL

## Section 100

### District Organization and Basic Commitments

- 101        Legal Status of the School District
- 102        Educational Philosophy of the District
- 103        Equal Educational Opportunity
- 104        Educational and Operational Planning
  - 104.1       Annual School Census

## LEGAL STATUS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Nebraska law authorizes the creation of public schools known a Common Schools System. As part of this Common Schools System, this school district is a school corporation created and organized under Nebraska law. This school district shall be known as District OR-1 Public Schools. The district shall also be recognized as School District #501 in Otoe County. The school district, as a body corporate, possesses all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes.

This school corporation is located in Otoe County and elected school officials known as the District OR-1 Board of Education conduct its affairs. This school corporation has local control over school matters in the territory of the school district as outlined by the applicable state statues.

Legal Reference:           Neb. Constitution, Art. VII, Sect. 1, 2  
                                  Neb. Statute 79-405  
  79-501 et seq.  
                                  Languis v. Deboer, 181 Neb 36 (1966)

Cross Reference:           201.1 Board Powers and Responsibilities

Approved: June 9, 2003

## EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

As a school corporation of Nebraska, District OR-1 Public Schools, acting through its School Board, is dedicated to promoting an equal opportunity for a quality public education to its students within the limitation of the school district's ability and willingness to furnish financial support to provide for students in cooperation with their parents and the school district community, the opportunity to develop a healthy social, intellectual, emotional, and physical self-concept in a learning environment that provides guidance to and encourages critical thinking in the students for a lifetime.

The board endeavors through the dedication of the school district's resources, to encourage students, who come to the school district from a variety of backgrounds, to look forward to the time when they will have jobs, homes, families, places in the school district community, and attain recognition as individuals. In order to achieve this goal, the board will seek qualified employees dedicated to development of their professional skills for the betterment of the educational program and for the expertise for educational productivity.

Instruction and curriculum are the key elements of a public education. Critical thinking and problem-solving skills that will assist the students' preparation for life shall be instructed as part of a sequentially coordinated curriculum. The school district strives to prepare students for employment, to discover and nurture creative talent and to prepare them to meet and cope with social change in an atmosphere conducive to learning.

The support and involvement of the home and the school district community are essential to achieve educational excellence in the school district. The school district strives to maintain an active relationship with the home and the school district community to create within the students an awareness of dignity and worth of the individual, civic responsibility and respect for authority.

Legal Reference:	Neb. Statute	79-526 79-701
	NDE Rule	10.004.01, .02

Cross Reference	103	Equal Educational Opportunity
	104	Educational and Operating Planning
	205	School Board Policy Process
	601	Goals and Objectives of Instructional Plan
	603	Curriculum Development

Approved: June 9, 2003

## EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

The board will not discriminate in its educational activities on the basis of: race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or marital status.

The board requires all persons, agencies, vendors, contractors and other persons and organizations doing business with or performing services for the school district to subscribe to all applicable federal and state laws, executive orders, rules and regulations pertaining to contract compliance and equal opportunity.

The board is committed to the policy that no otherwise qualified person will be excluded from educational activities on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, marital status, national origin, or disability. Further, the board affirms the right of all students and staff to be treated with respect and to be protected from intimidation, discrimination, physical harm and harassment.

Harassment or discriminatory behavior that denies civil rights or access to equal educational opportunities includes comments, name-calling, physical conduct or other expressive behavior directed at an individual or group that intentionally demeans the race, color, religion, national origin, sex or disability of the individual or individuals or creates an intimidating, hostile or demeaning environment for education.

Legal Reference:	Neb. Statute 79-1110-1167 79-2114-2124
	20 U.S.C. §§ 1221 et seq.
	20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 et seq.
	20 U.S.C. §§ 1701 et seq.
	20 U.S.C. §§ 794
	20 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq.
	28 C.F.R. Pt. 35.1
	34 C.F.R. Pt. 100
	34 C.F.R. Pt. 104
	34 C.F.R. Pt. 106

Cross Reference	102 Educational Philosophy of the District
	402.1 Equal Employment Opportunity
	501 Objectives for Equal Educational Opportunities for Students

Approved: June 9, 2003

## EDUCATIONAL AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING

The board shall periodically conduct an in-depth needs assessment, soliciting information from business, labor, industry, higher education and community members, regarding their expectations for adequate student preparation. One purpose of this assessment is to assist the board in developing and evaluating a statement of philosophy for the school district. The second purpose of this assessment is to determine the areas of student performance, knowledge, and attitudes and the areas of school district operations, which are judged to be most crucial in meeting school or school district goals. As part of its assessment, the board shall develop a process for communicating with business, industry, labor and higher education regarding their expectations for adequate student preparation. The statement of philosophy shall describe the board's beliefs about topics, which shall include the nature of learning, the purpose of the school district, the scope of educational experiences that the school district should provide, the nature of its learners and a description of a desirable learning atmosphere.

In conjunction with the in-depth needs assessment of the school district, the board shall authorize the appointment of a committee representing administrators, employees, parents, students and community members, to make recommendations and assist the board in determining the priorities of the school district in addition to the basic skills areas of the education program.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to ensure the school district community is informed of the board's policies, programs and goals and has an opportunity to express their thoughts and suggestions for the operation of the school district. The superintendent shall report annually to the board about the means used to keep the community informed.

As a result of the board and committee's work, the board shall determine major educational needs and rank them in priority order; develop long-range goals and plans to meet the needs; establish and implement short-range and intermediate-range plans to meet the goals and to attain the desired levels of student performance; evaluate progress toward meeting the goals and maintain a record of progress under the plan that includes reports of student performance and result of school improvement projects; and annually report the school district's progress made under the plan to the committee, community and Nebraska Department of Education.

## Legal Reference:

Neb. Statues 79-526  
79-701, 702  
79-729  
79-1301  
NDE Rule 10.004.01A1  
10-004.02A1  
10-004.07

## Cross Reference

102 Educational Philosophy of the District  
201.1 Board Powers and Responsibilities  
203.6 Board Committees  
604.1 Basic Instructional Program  
902.1 Buildings and Sites Long Range Planning

