



- ✓ Valuing Students
- ✓ Empowering Parents
- ✓ Enlightening Communities

ORS 322.072 Legal Status of School Districts

All School Districts are bodies corporate, and the district school board is authorized to transact all business coming within the jurisdiction of the district and to sue and be sued. Pursuant to law, district school boards have control of the district schools and are responsible for educating children residing in the district. (1965 c.100& 139)

MEMO: School Boards and Parents!

Parents are intimidated and frustrated with their elected representatives on the School Board. They testify at public meetings, and attend work sessions only to be told the schools must comply with state Standards. But who, then represents parents concerns? Who protects children from controversial curriculums?

Herein lies the problem!

School Board Members legally have control of school policies. Although they are often reminded at Association meetings they have the power to create and change policy, yet Superintendents encourage members to comply with requests from the Department of Education.

What about Standards and Curriculum ?

School Boards have the power to not only reject the curriculums, but they can reject the Standards! Curriculum seems to be the greatest challenge, as the Department of Education supplies local schools with tempting tools to ease their responsibilities. Who wants to wade through stacks of curriculum pages? It's just easier to rubber stamp the suggestions and recommendations from the state agency.

For example, The ODE published a list of Standards for K-12 Health Instruction (and curriculum options to implement the Standards) with the recommendation School Boards accept as policy.

School Board members can submit RESOLUTIONS to change policy.

They do not have to wait for the Superintendent to suggest policy additions, revision, or removal. Parents should engage in the process by supporting the change they want, supporting their School Board members with testimony, and running for School Board positions, themselves.

Don't have a School Board Member who supports you?

You have the power to submit a Resolution to change policy, too! Meet with the Superintendent and request to be placed on the agenda for a hearing and a vote. Take a friend or two to the meeting to bolster your credibility. Then when your Resolution is placed on the Agenda, fill the room!

Public testimony must be heard. Each citizen has 3 minutes. Strategize and split up testimony between members of the group so you don't miss offering valuable viewpoint.

Parents' Rights In Education is available to help. Contact us! We will connect you with like-minded parents and School Board members in your area, so together we can make a difference.