



Section One: Board of Education

“Together We Learn”

120 – TRUSTEE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to explain the levels of decision-making in the education system in BC: *Provincial Government; Board of Education; Principals and Teachers.*

Policy

1. Within the BC public education system, there are four levels of decision – making authority, responsibility and accountability.
 - 1.1 At the provincial level, decision-making authority resides with the *provincial government*, (exercised through statutory legislation by the legislature, regulations passed by the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council, and ministerial orders written by the Minister of Education).
 - 1.2 Locally, the decision-making authority lies with elected Boards of Education (who decide on policies and procedures, implemented by the Superintendent of Schools).
 - 1.3 Within the local policy framework, principals have decision-making authority at the school level.
 - 1.4 Teachers have the authority within their classrooms.
2. The *provincial government* is responsible for creating, reviewing and refining a legislative policy framework which:
 - 2.1 considers the competing interests and values of various public bodies;
 - 2.2 enshrines the rights and responsibilities of the partners, employees and students and provides them with the authority to fulfill their responsibilities;
 - 2.3 mandates clear learning outcomes and standards for educational programs and services within the province;
 - 2.4 provides funding to allow students within BC equitable access to an appropriate standard of programs and services;
 - 2.5 ensures accountability and flexibility of Boards of Education for the programs and services delivered in the schools within their district;



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- 2.6 ensures the provincial government is accountable to the electorate for the framework it sets, and for the standard of program and service delivery achieved in the province.

3. *Boards of Education* are responsible for creating, reviewing and refining district policies which:
 - 3.1 in consideration of competing interests and values, apply the provincial requirements to local policies to meet the needs of the community;
 - 3.2 ensure the rights and responsibilities of the public, in relation to public education, are understood and respected;
 - 3.3 enable the achievement of both the provincial and locally developed learning outcomes and standards for educational programs and services;
 - 3.4 effectively use provincial funding to provide district students with equitable access to programs and services;
 - 3.5 ensure that the district’s schools are accountable for the programs and services they deliver, and that the educators have flexibility to deliver them responsively;
 - 3.6 ensure the Board is accountable to the local electorate for the framework it sets and the standard of program and service delivery achieved in the district’s schools.