

SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements

The public schools belong to the people. The people govern the schools under rights guaranteed to them under the Constitution and statutes of the State of Illinois. The people exercise their proprietorship through the elective process. They elect state and federal representatives who establish -- through the legislature and the Congress -- the framework of law within which the school operates. And the People elect a School Board to represent them and to determine local educational plans and policy and to establish publicly-endorsed educational goals and objectives. The Morton Unit School District 709 School Board functions as an agency of the public within this framework.

The Board is mindful that the people are the ultimate governors of public education and that the Board is directly accountable to the people through the elective process. But the Board also believes that accountability is a shared responsibility involving students, teachers and other employees, the Superintendent of schools and the people themselves as well as the School Board. The Board therefore asserts these beliefs and expectations:

Students should be directed at home and at the school in such a manner that they will learn to hold themselves accountable for their own lives, actions and decisions as maturing members of a democratic society.

Teachers should hold students accountable for achieving (within the limits of each student's abilities) the objectives of each learning experience.

The Superintendent should hold teachers and other employees accountable for working with diligent effort and with intelligence and imagination in achieving the objectives directly related to their stated job responsibilities.

The School Board should appoint the most capable person available to hold the position of District Superintendent of Schools and should hold him accountable for providing creative professional leadership and counsel in all aspects of the school district program.

The School Board should also hold itself accountable for carrying out its mandate plan, to make policy and to lead in the identification of goals and objectives and the resources necessary for their achievement.

The public should hold itself accountable for maintaining a vigorous interest in, concern for and constructive criticism of the schools; for electing the most able men and women available to represent them on the School Board and in the State Legislature and U.S. Congress; and for providing the resources necessary for the School Board and District staff to accomplish the publicly-endorsed goals and objectives of the school district.

ORGANIZATION FOR INSTRUCTION

Morton Unit School District 709 shall be organized in such manner that will provide students with the opportunity to maximize their potential. No organizational pattern should be so entrenched that it becomes difficult to effect change as educational research provides greater insights into how children learn.

District 709 shall divide its school population into elementary level (PreK-6), junior high level (7-8) and high school level (9-12).

Basic organization for instruction in PreK-6 shall be self-contained classrooms with special instruction in music and physical education, but limited departmentalization may be employed to utilize special abilities of staff members with the permission of the Superintendent. Grades 7-12 shall be departmentalized.

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

The District enters into and participates in joint programs and intergovernmental agreements with units of local government and other school districts in order to jointly provide services and activities in a manner that will increase flexibility, scope of service opportunities, cost reductions, and/or otherwise benefit the District and the community. The Superintendent shall manage these activities to the extent the program or agreement requires the District's participation, and shall provide periodic implementation or operational data and/or reports to the School Board concerning these programs and agreements.

The School Board of Morton Unit School District 709 may provide curriculum extensions for the District's instructional program by participation in the following cooperatives:

1. Tazewell-Mason Counties Special Education Association
2. Other Area Regional Delivery System

LEGAL REF: Ill. Const., Art. VII, Sec. 10, 5 ILCS 220/1 et.seq.

ADOPTED: November 3, 1987

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