

Policy Work Session

May 21, 2026

School Board Policy



What is Policy?

- A Formal Statement adopted by the School Board
- Based in Legal Requirements & Community Values
- The Board's Book of Law: Binding & Enforceable

Defines the “what?” and the “why?”



Policy Should NOT:

- Define day-to-day operations
- Create step-by-step directions
- Read like an employee handbook
- Direct staff on specific functions

School Board Policy



Policy Roles

School Board

- ❖ Sets Policy
- ❖ Sets Expectations
- ❖ Governance Principals
- ❖ Oversees

Superintendent & Staff

- ❖ Implements Policy
- ❖ Sets Day-to-Day Rules
- ❖ Procedures
- ❖ Enforces



What Increases Risk for School Boards?

- Too many details in policy
- Board members become personally involved in decisions
- Board members block Administration from adopting procedures
- Policy is not clearly communicated
- Policy and Regulations are not applied consistently

Policy vs. Regulation

Policies outline what will happen.

Policies are set by the school board.

A school board policy is a basic governance statement articulating and reflecting how the division should operate, creating stability, continuity, and consistency across the division.

Policies help the school division function in accordance with law.

In some cases, state or federal law requires school boards to have a policy on a particular issue.

By having policies based on laws, school divisions ensure they are meeting legal requirements and the policies can make those laws more accessible to staff, parents, students, and the community.

Regulations detail how it will happen.

Regulations are established by the superintendent.

Regulations bring policies to life by addressing the practical details of implementation.

While not every policy requires a regulation, in some situations it is helpful to have a regulation specify the details of how a policy is implemented.

Regulations provide a great opportunity for local control and flexibility.

Policy vs. Regulation



Execution

- When reviewing any issue, ask:
 - Is this about legal compliance, values, goals, and expectations? If yes, it should be School Board Policy.
 - Is this about methods, steps, or implementation? If yes, it should be in the Superintendent/Staff Regulations.

Student Services

- JFCH/GBEC/KGC: Tobacco Products and Nicotine Vapor Products
- JFCI: Substance Abuse Student Assistance Program
 - Proposed regulation and implementation plan
- JHC: Student Health Services

Student Rights & Responsibilities

- Restorative Practices
- Education can be mandated

JL: Fundraising and Solicitation

- Staff feedback
- Revised [policy regulation](#)

Instruction

- IKEC: Promotion & Retention
 - The policy regulation will outline procedures, criteria, and expectations for decision-making and student support

- Discussion: Ed Tech Policy

Board Policy Edit Requests:

- KNAJ: Relations with Law Enforcement
 - MOU reviewed annually