

School Committee Legal Status

State law provides that:

“Every town at its annual meeting shall in every year when the term of office of any incumbent expires, and except when other provision is made by law, choose by ballot from its registered voters the following town officers for the following terms of office:

...Three, five, six, seven or nine members of the School Committee for terms of three years...”

The School Committee is the governing board of the town's public school system. Although its functions as a duly elected committee of town government, the School Committee has, unlike other town boards, autonomous and absolute authority within limitations established by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to carry out the educational policies of the state and guide the educational process.

Established by town by-laws, the School Committee shall consist of five (5) members. There shall be elected each year at town elections one or two members according to the number of vacancies occurring by reason of expiration of terms of office. Each new member is elected to serve for a term of three (3) years. Such elections shall be in accordance with M.G.L. 41:11.

Established by law

APPROVED: February 9, 2004

REVIEWED: October 23, 2006

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 41:1 and 41:11, specifically, but powers and duties of School Committees are established throughout the General Laws of Massachusetts Relating to School Committees

CROSS REFS: AA, School District Legal Status
BBA, School Committee Powers and Duties
BBB, School Committee Elections