

SCHOOL COMMITTEE LEGAL STATUS

The Constitution of the State places the responsibility of establishing and maintaining public schools on the State Legislature, which provides for a State Board of Education charged with general supervision of the public schools. The law further provides that local public schools shall be maintained, developed and operated by locally-elected school committees or boards of education. The School Committee of the City of Westbrook is a department of the city government and derives its legal authority from the State Constitution, state statutes, regulations of the State Board of Education and the Charter of the City of Westbrook.

However, by custom and tradition, local school boards/committees have responsibilities to the local citizenry they serve and which elects them. Recognizing this twofold concept of authority and responsibility, the School Committee conceives of itself as a policymaking body for the school system, serving within the framework provided by law and the will of the local citizenry.

As established by the Charter of the City of Westbrook, there are seven members of the School Committee elected by the voters; each School Committee member serves for a four-year term.

Legal Reference: Westbrook City Charter
20-A MRSA § 1001

Adopted: September 26, 1960

Revised: 10/8/86; 7/22/98

Reviewed by the Policy Committee: March 14, 2005