

## SCHOOL BOARD LEGAL STATUS

Recognizing that “a general diffusion of the advantages of education [is] essential to the preservation of rights and liberties of the people,” the Constitution of the State of Maine declares that the Legislature has the duty to require communities to provide for the support and maintenance of public schools in order to further this objective. Maine law establishes a State Department of Education to supervise a coordinated system of public education, a Commissioner to enforce regulatory requirements and to provide technical assistance and educational leadership, and a State Board of Education to act as a body with certain policymaking, administrative and advisory functions, but places the responsibility for control and management of public schools with locally elected School Committees, School Boards or Boards of Directors. Thus, the Saco Board of Education derives its legal authority from the State’s Constitution, the Charter of the City of Saco, state statutes, and regulations of the State Board of Education, as well as Federal laws and regulations.

By custom and tradition, local School Boards have responsibilities to the local citizenry they serve and who elect them to office. Recognizing this parallel concept of authority and responsibility, the Board becomes a policy-making body for the school district serving within the framework provided by law and responding to the will of the local citizenry.

### **Composition of the Board**

As established by the Charter of the City of Saco, the Board of Education consists of five members elected at large from the qualified voters of the City. Each Board member serves a term of three years.

Legal Reference:   Maine Const., art. VIII  
                          20-A MRSA §§ 1001, 2301  
                          Charter of the City of Saco § 4.01

Adopted:       May 23, 1978

Revised:       \_\_\_\_\_