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SCHOOL BOARD LEGAL STATUS

The Constitution of Louisiana places the responsibility for establishing and maintaining an efficient system of public schools on the State Legislature.

The Jefferson Davis Parish School Board is defined by the Constitution of Louisiana as a political subdivision of the state. As such, it has been established as a body corporate with the power to sue and be sued and charged with the establishment, maintenance, development and operation of an efficient public school program within the school district. State and federal courts have held that the Board is vested with a broad range of administrative and supervisory authority commensurate with the aforementioned prescribed educational responsibilities outlined in state statutes.

Members of the Jefferson Davis Parish School Board are elected officers of a political subdivision of the state. The Board is the agency through which the school district acts in regard to school matters. Board members have authority only when functioning as a body or group in a legally called regular or special meeting. The powers of the Board are delegated only to the Board as a body. No authority is granted to members acting as individuals.

The Board is cognizant that all actions must be taken in good faith, with reasonable prudence, sincerity and based on the belief that such actions are correct and in the best interests of the school district in accordance with the statutes and pertinent judicial precedents.

Ref: Constitution of Louisiana, [Art. VIII, Sec. 9](#)

La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§[17:51](#), [17:1371](#), [17:1372](#), [17:1373](#)

Hawthorne v. Jackson Parish School Board, 5 La. App. 508 (1927)

Jefferson Davis Parish School Board