

POLICY

1999

1110

By-Laws

SUBJECT: SCHOOL DISTRICT AND BOARD OF EDUCATION LEGAL STATUS

The authority for the operation of school districts in New York State flows from Article XI, Section 1 of the New York State Constitution, which mandates that the State legislature provide for a system of free, common schools. The legislature empowers the New York State Education Department to organize the delivery of instruction throughout the State.

There are in excess of 700 school districts in the State. The Board of Education members serve as officials of the State in carrying out the responsibilities for providing for instruction in the public schools of the South Huntington Union Free School District.

Education Law is established by the New York State legislature and administered by the State Education Department, which promulgates rules and regulations for the operation of school districts.

The South Huntington Union Free School District was officially established on December 10, 1924, when the taxpayers voted to consolidate three local schools to form the new District. The District is located approximately 35 miles from New York City and encompasses an area of approximately 15 square miles.

The School District constitutes a corporate entity that possesses all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes, and in that name may sue and be sued, purchase, hold and sell personal property and real estate, and enter into such obligations as are authorized by law.

The Constitution of the State of New York places the responsibility for public education on the State Legislature, and directs the establishment of a State Department of Education for general supervision over the schools and headed by a Commissioner of Education. The New York State Constitution further provides that local public schools under the general supervision of the State Education Department shall be maintained, developed and operated by locally elected boards. Legally, local boards are instruments of the New York State Constitution, the New York Statutes and the regulations of the State Education Department and its Commissioner.

New York State Constitution
Education Law Articles 35 and 37

Adopted: 6/16/99