



First Supervisory District of Suffolk County
201 Sunrise Highway
Patchogue, New York 11772

Board Policy

Organization and Authority

Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) are part of the State's public school system. In 1948, the New York Legislature enacted a law authorizing the establishment of these agencies for the purpose of providing shared educational services to school districts within supervisory districts.

In essence, then, Boards of Cooperative Educational Services are area educational agencies, which provide a variety of special instructional and administrative services to local school districts. Their programs and services are designed to serve the local districts and are provided upon request.

All BOCES are established, organized, governed, and financed in accordance with law, policies of the Board of Regents, and regulations of the Commissioner of Education. BOCES programs, services, and budgets must be approved by the New York State Education Department.

The Board of Cooperative Educational Services of the First Supervisory District of Suffolk County shall be known and referred to as "Eastern Suffolk BOCES" or "ESBOCES."

The Board of Cooperative Educational Services is a corporate body created by statute and vested with complete authority over the educational and fiscal affairs of the agency. In the exercise of such authority, the Board shall exercise only such powers as are expressly granted to it by law.

All authority rests with the Board as a whole and not with any individual member or any group of members in any committee. Committee members may act on an individual basis only when specifically delegated with the authority by the Board. All final policy decisions are placed in the hands of the Board.

Limitation of Responsibilities as Individuals

The authority and responsibilities of individual Board members do not extend to execution of the policies, which they adopt as a body.

The role of the Board, as with any legislative body, is to act collectively, not individually. Individual members have no status as, and shall not attempt to act as, administrators in ESBOCES. Rather, the District Superintendent, Chief Operating Officer, all administrators, as well as all other employees of ESBOCES, are responsible to the Board as an entity. Board members, however, as with all legislators, are entitled to full information and all data necessary, in their judgment, to the proper casting of their votes on any matter that can come before the Board for action. Administrative duties will be delegated to the District Superintendent, Chief Operating Officer, and/or designee(s); governing powers will be rigorously retained for action by the Board itself.

Individual Board members being recipient of citizens' comments, petitions, or complaints serious enough to warrant, or by their nature such as to warrant, action by the Board as a whole, should normally request the same to be reduced to writing and transmitted to the District Superintendent, Chief Operating Officer, or designee for revision and inclusion on the agenda, if deemed appropriate.

Individual Board members, speaking on their own behalf outside of regular Board meetings or debates, should make it clear that their personal views are not necessarily the same as the full Board acting collectively.

Each member of the Board should read his/her agenda and necessary documents accompanying the same prior to the Board meeting, mark portions which need clarification, and otherwise be prepared for maximum participation necessary in the shortest time possible on each question coming before the Board. Board members are encouraged to contact the District Superintendent, Chief Operating Officer, or designee prior to the meeting to clarify any items on the agenda.

Board members, if they are to retain effective control of ESBOCES without becoming involved in the administration thereof, should avail themselves of every opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills as members of the governing body of ESBOCES.

References:

- [NYS Education Law §1950](#)
- Administrative Regulation 1110R.1 - Organization and Authority

First Adopted: 7/1/03
Readopted: 7/11/07