

PURPOSE AND ROLE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District affirms that it is dedicated to providing excellent educational opportunities to its students. This includes providing them with assistance and guidance in the development of personal and civic values.

It is the goal of the Berlin School District to foster and encourage a desire to learn and an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of individuals in a free society. The Berlin School District will endeavor to work with parents, the school community and government and community based organizations to promote the social and intellectual growth and development of its students as individuals and as members of society.

Further, the Board hereby affirms that:

1. Education is primarily a state function.
2. Operational control rests at the local level, subject to State and Federal requirements.
3. The Board of Education is a legislative body responsible for the governance of the Berlin School District in a manner consistent with the laws, rules and regulations of the State of New York and the United States of America.
4. The Board of Education, as a body, is the unit of authority for the School District. Board members exercise their authority and responsibility collectively, as part of that body and have no individual authority. Individual board members may not commit the district to any policy, act, or expenditure. Board members are elected to be representative the entire community, not a faction of the community.
5. The Berlin School District is comprised of students with diverse backgrounds and experience. In the exercise of its authority to prescribe and evaluate a program of instruction for its students, the Board of Education is committed to providing a comprehensive education program that will respond to the many and varied interests and needs of the students of the District.

6. The Board recognizes the need to maintain public confidence in the quality of education and in its management of taxpayer resources in a manner that is consistent with the resources available to the community.
7. The Board recognizes the need to maintain close ties to and positive relations with the communities it serves as essential to the best operation of the school district.
8. The Board recognizes the need to select and maintain appropriately trained and experienced administrators who are dedicated to achieving excellence in the implementation of the policies of the district.
9. The Board recognizes the superintendent of schools as the chief executive officer of the school district. The Board will rely upon the superintendent for recommendations and suggestions concerning the administration and management of the school district.
10. The Board recognizes the need to employ instructional and special services staff who maintain the highest standards of professionalism and who possess the talent and skills to offer students educational opportunities commensurate with their needs, interests and abilities.
11. The Board recognizes the need to employ such other qualified personnel as may be needed to carry out the programs of the district.
12. The Board recognizes the value of and encourages the participation of the school district community and the school staff in policy development and decision-making concerning school affairs. To this end, the Board is committed to the development and maintenance of a community relations program designed to provide information about the educational programs of the district and to foster a public understanding of the problems and issues facing the district.
13. The Board recognizes that it is in the best interests of the students for a close and cooperative working relationship to exist between school district administration and staff and the families of the students in the district. This will include the provision of regular reports to parents or guardians concerning student academic progress.
14. The Board recognizes the right of employee groups to organize and bargain collectively for salaries and other terms and conditions of employment as provided for by law and pledges good faith in this endeavor.