

SECTION 1      SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

1:10      School District Legal Status

1:20      District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements

1:30      School District Mission

---

## School District Organization

### School District Legal Status

Any and all reference to School District throughout this policy manual refers to Zion-Benton Township High School District 126.

The Illinois Constitution requires the State to provide for an efficient system of high quality public educational institutions and services in order to achieve the educational development of all persons to the limits of their capabilities.

The General Assembly has implemented this mandate through the creation of school districts. District 126 is governed by the laws for school districts having a population of not fewer than 1,000 and not more than 500,000.

District 126 constitutes a body corporate 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.

LEGAL REF.: Ill. Const., Art. X, Sec. 1.  
105 ILCS 5/10-1 et seq.

CROSS REF.: 2:10 (School District Governance)  
2:20 (Power and Duties of the School Board)

---

## **School District Organization**

### **District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements**

The District enters into and participates in joint programs and intergovernmental agreements with units of local government and other school districts in order to jointly provide services and activities in a manner that will increase flexibility, scope of service opportunities, cost reductions, and/or otherwise benefit the District and the community. The Superintendent shall manage these activities to the extent the program or agreement requires the District's participation, and shall provide periodic implementation or operational data and/or reports to the School Board concerning these programs and agreements.

---

## School District Organization

### School District Mission

To promote self worth, social responsibility and life-long learning in partnership with our community.

### Goals

We remain committed to our belief that District 126 provides quality schools. We believe that our quest for excellence is best demonstrated by:

- Leading our constituents in a partnership to offer quality instructional programs and activities to meet the present and future needs of our diverse student body;
- Recruiting, retaining and rewarding our faculty for their achievement;
- Providing campus learning environments that are caring, safe and drug-free;
- Providing the materials, equipment and facilities to achieve our mission.

### School Vision

Our Vision foresees:

- an inviting, safe, drug-free, and intellectually challenging environment that enables success and life-long learning for all students regardless of their background or abilities
- a modernization of the school physical plant and innovative use of school facilities, daily schedule, and year-round use
- a readily available support system that meets the varying demands of student needs
- systems that reward, not punish; promote success, not failure; and celebrate uniqueness as opposed to encouraging conformity
- teaching styles that reflect innovation, cross-departmental efforts, and the use of technology for student learning in concert with the community, the work site, and local colleges, trade, and vocational schools
- emphasis on the whole student through extra-curricular and/or sports' programs, community service, volunteer work, and citizenship

- recognition of the essential role of family, church, and community support in student success
- the unified efforts of the Zion-Benton community, School Board, Administration, certified staff, classified staff, Z-B Federation of Teachers, and all members of the Zion-Benton "family" in ensuring student and staff success as the guiding principle of all decision-making
- a reluctant acceptance that we cannot be all things to all students, all parents, all members of our community, or even ourselves but that we shall be truthful about our failures yet relentless in our dreams
- an awareness that the quest for excellence demands constant appraisal, challenge, and updating

### **Essential Core Principles**

In support of its mission and vision, District 126 has adopted the following essential core principles that guide the District's decision making:

District 126 is a learning community that believes:

1. all students will take a rigorous course of studies.
2. its instructional methods and curriculum must be designed to meet the learning needs of all students.
3. all students must develop skills and subject area competencies necessary for college readiness and success in life.
4. student learning is enhanced by curriculum that is content-based and interdisciplinary, incorporating both historical and contemporary contexts.
5. students develop critical thinking skills and maximize their learning through the study of open-ended questions and analyses of multiple interpretations.
6. it is responsible for fostering a culture that empowers a collaborative staff, purposefully focused on student achievement and the use of data to inform decisions and practice.
7. in utilizing relevant, contemporary debate to foster civic consciousness and prepare students for responsible citizenship.
8. all students are enriched through collaboration and cooperation in order to gain insights and understandings about our global community.

### **Core Commitments**

Adopted March 20, 1997

Rev. August 23, 2001

Rev. April 25, 2013

---

District 126's core commitments include:

1. **Effective Schools** – Demonstrate the joint presence of excellence (high level of achievement) and equity (little difference among subsets of students)
2. **Innovation and Equity** – Celebrate our diverse population by guaranteeing equity in learning opportunities and ensuring access to innovative technology and teaching practices.
3. **Safety** – Provide and support an emotionally and physically safe environment free from substance abuse.
4. **Curriculum** – Provide a curriculum that is rigorous and relevant for all students.
5. **Role Model** – Model adult behaviors of honesty, citizenship, ethical behavior, dignity and respect.
6. **Discovery** – Nurture a passion for discovery that fosters an inviting, challenging and enjoyable learning experience.
7. **Motivation** – Motivate students through consistent, caring, teaching that emphasizes creativity, cooperation and academic achievement.
8. **Service and Community** – Promote genuine pride in our school and encourage students to become responsible and active members and leaders in our school and community.