

Board of Education — Description

The Calvert County Board of Education (Board) works as a body politic. Individual Board members do not represent the neighborhood in which they live, but rather represent the citizens at large; they work to provide a quality education for all students. A member of the Board is tasked to establish a clear vision and direction for the school system, use the budgeting process to align resources to support Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) Strategic Plan, collaborate with all segments of the larger community, and protect the integrity of the quasi-judicial process.

The Board ensures excellence in education for our students through vigilant oversight, sound policies, and meaningful community engagement. They establish the direction and policies of the CCPS local school system and are responsible for all educational matters that affect their local school system. The powers and duties of the board of education are found primarily in The Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland in sections 4-101 through 4-204 and section 5-401.

When the Board establishes policies, it is acting in its quasi-legislative role; therefore it considers policies in light of recent decisions of law, State Board of Education decisions, and practical applications based on experience. Policies must be carefully crafted, considered, and regularly reviewed to enable the Board to achieve the desired effect. The responsibility for implementing policies on a day-to-day basis resides with the Superintendent. From time-to-time, the Board hears appeals of the Superintendent's decisions, including employee or student complaints and employee or student discipline.

The Board adopts legislative positions on issues pertinent to the education of students in Calvert County. They consider adjusting school geographical attendance areas, more commonly referred to as redistricting, when a school is constructed, closed, an addition to an existing school is constructed, when one or more schools are predicted to become overcrowded/underutilized, or when an emergency situation arises.

Each school system in Maryland is required to develop a 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and submit that plan to the Interagency Commission on School Construction. The CIP is presented annually to the Board for consideration and approval prior to its submission to the state.

All county superintendents are appointed by the local school Board. In the exercise of its statutory duties, perhaps the most significant power a local Board wields is hiring (with the concurrence of the State Superintendent of Schools) and overseeing the Superintendent. In fact, the Board has only one employee – the Superintendent. All other employees of the school system work for him/her. It is not the local Board's role to oversee the day-to-day operations of the school system. The Board is responsible to hold the Superintendent accountable for effectively executing day-to-day responsibilities on behalf of the Board and in line with Board policy.

While the Board operates independently from County Government (County), over 60% of the CCPS Operating Budget is provided by the County. In addition, the County allocates significant money toward capital construction projects. Finally, both the Board and the County serve the same citizenry. Consequently, there is continuous conversation between the Board and the County, and between school system and County executive staffs, about budget and finance.