

SCHOOL BOARD LEGAL STATUS

The Lafayette Parish School Board derives its legal status from the State Legislature, which is subject to the Constitutions of the State of Louisiana and the United States. The Legislature has been granted authority for creation of school boards by Article VIII, Section 9 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 which states: "...The legislature shall create parish school boards and provide for the election of their members..."

The Lafayette Parish School Board has been established as a body corporate charged with the establishment, maintenance, development and operation of an efficient public school program within the school district. State and federal courts have held that the Board is vested with a broad range of administrative and supervisory authority commensurate with the aforementioned prescribed educational responsibilities.

Members of the Lafayette Parish School Board are officers of the state. The School Board is the agency through which the school district acts in regard to school matters. Board members have authority only when functioning as a body or group in a legally called regular or special meeting. The powers of the School Board are delegated only to the Board as a body. No authority is granted to members acting as individuals.

The School Board is cognizant that all actions must be taken in good faith, with reasonable prudence, and sincerity. Board action must be based on the belief that such actions are correct and in the best interests of the school district in accordance with the statutes and pertinent judicial precedents.

In suits against the Lafayette Parish School Board, citation shall be served on the President of the Board, and in his/her absence, on the Vice-President.

DOMICILE

The official domicile of the Lafayette Parish School Board is the *School Board Central Office* located at 113 Chaplin Drive, Lafayette, Louisiana.

Ref: Constitution of Louisiana, Art. VI, Sec 44, Art. VIII, Sec. 9, 10, 13, Art. XII, Sec. 10; La. R. S. 17:51; *Hawthorne v. Jackson Parish School Board*, 5 La. App. 508 (1927)

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