

## **SCHOOL COMMITTEE LEGAL STATUS**

Recognizing that “a general diffusion of the advantages of education [is] essential to the preservation of rights and liberties of the people,” the Constitution of the State of Maine declares that the Legislature has the duty to require communities to provide for the support and maintenance of public schools in order to further this objective. Maine law establishes a State Department of Education to supervise a coordinated system of public education, a Commissioner to enforce regulatory requirements and to provide technical assistance and educational leadership, and a State Board of Education to act as a body with certain policymaking, administrative and advisory functions, but places the responsibility for control and management of public schools with locally elected School Committees, School Boards or Boards of Directors. In accordance with the State’s Constitution and statutes implementing “home rule,” Sanford has adopted its City Charter, which establishes the Sanford School Committee. Thus, the School Committee derives its legal authority from the State’s Constitution, state statutes, regulations of the State Board of Education and the Charter of the City of Sanford, as well as Federal laws and regulations.

The Sanford School Committee shall consist of five members elected in accordance with the Charter of the City of Sanford. Members of the School Committee shall serve a three-year term. Members-elect shall be sworn to the faithful discharge of their duties by the City Clerk or by a Notary Public at/or prior to the first organizational meeting in January.

Legal Reference:      20-A MRSA § 1001  
                                 Charter of the City of Sanford, Article V § 501

Cross Reference:      BDB - Board Officers

Adopted:              May 15, 1989  
Revised:              September 12, 2013  
Reviewed:            September 2023