

## A - SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

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## SCHOOL DISTRICT LEGAL STATUS

The Russell County District derives its legal status from the State Legislature which, in turn, is subject to the constitutions of both the State of Alabama and the United States. Authority of the State Legislature is specified in Amendment III to the Alabama Constitution of 1901 which states, "...The Legislature may by law provide for and authorize the establishment and operation of schools by such persons, agencies or municipalities, at such places, and upon such conditions as it may prescribe...".

The School District, consisting of all Russell County outside the corporate limits of Phenix City, is under the exclusive control and management of the Russell County Board of Education, a body duly authorized by the State Legislature. Consequently, the Board is responsible for the general administration and supervision of the county schools and shall operate the School District in accordance with all applicable constitutional and statutory provisions and requirements of the State of Alabama and the United States.

SOURCE: Russell County Board of Education, Phenix City, Alabama.

ADOPTED: March 22, 2005

LEGAL REF: The *Code of Alabama* 16-8-8; U.S. Const. Amend. X, Amend. XIV, 1; Ala. Const. Amend. 111; See: *Wisconsin V. Yoder*, 92 St. Ct. 1562 (1972); *Milliken v. Bradley* 94 S. Ct. 3112 (1974); *Dayton Board of Education v. Brinkman*, 97 S. Ct. 2766 (1977).

**RUSSELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

As provided by the *Code of Alabama* and the regulations adopted thereunder, this District is governed by a Board of Education.

SOURCE: Russell County Board of Education, Phenix City, Alabama.  
ADOPTED: March 22, 2005

## **AUTHORITY**

The Board of Education is an agency of the State of Alabama, charged by delegation from the State for the purpose of convenient organization and administration, with governing this School District - not administering the same. The Board, within the powers delegated to it by law, is the policy-making or legislative branch of the School District. The Superintendent is the executive, or administering branch of the School District.

SOURCE: Russell County Board of Education, Phenix City, Alabama.

ADOPTED: March 22, 2005

LEGAL REF: The *Code of Alabama*, Title XVI

## **PURPOSE AND ROLE OF THE BOARD**

The purpose of the Board of Education is to exercise general supervision over the schools of the District, and to ensure that schools are maintained as provided by the laws of the State of Alabama, the written policies adopted by the Board of Education pursuant to State Law, and not inconsistent with the instructions of legally constituted state authority.

The Board of Education shall provide the School District with education of the highest character consistent with the needs of the residents, and within their ability to finance the educational program.

The School District exists as a corporate entity separate and apart from other units of local government. It is the policy of the Board to coordinate with all other local governments in matters of common concern and interest.

SOURCE: Russell County Board of Education, Phenix City, Alabama.

ADOPTED: March 22, 2005

LEGAL REF: The *Code of Alabama*, Title XVI

## **POWERS GRANTED TO THE BOARD BY LAW**

The Board of Education is responsible for the general supervision over the schools, and for the actions of any of its agents or employees. Though its members individually may not do certain things, collectively they are responsible for all things done by the District. The Board exercises this responsibility by proper organization, delegation and direction, through policies adopted by it.

Certain specific powers and responsibilities are vested in the Board by the laws of the State of Alabama.

SOURCE: Russell County Board of Education, Phenix City, Alabama.

ADOPTED: March 22, 2005

LEGAL REF: The *Code of Alabama*, Title XVI

## NUMBER OF MEMBERS

### Section 1

The Russell County Board of Education shall be composed of seven (7) members elected as follows:

One member shall be elected from each of the Board of Education Districts hereinafter described and shall be a qualified elector thereof, and shall reside in said District. Members representing the six (6) Districts shall be elected by the qualified electors residing in each of said Districts, and no others shall be allowed to vote in such elections.

One member shall be elected from the county at large and shall be elected by the qualified electors of the county who reside outside the corporate limits of Phenix City.

### Section 2

Places on the Russell County Board of Education shall be as follows:

Place Number One shall be a member elected from the District comprised of Ladonia, District 1

Place Number Two shall be a member elected from the District comprised of Ladonia, District 2

Place Number Three shall be a member elected from the District comprised of Crawford, Dixie and Uchee, District 3

Place Number Four shall be a member elected from the District comprised of Hurtsboro and Hatchechubbee, District 4.

Place Number Five shall be a member elected from the District comprised of Cottonton, Pittsview, and Seale, District 5.

Place Number Six shall be a member elected from the District comprised of Ft. Mitchell, Mt. Olive, and Sunderlan, District 6.

Place Number Seven shall be a member elected from the District, At-Large, District 7

SOURCE: Russell County Board of Education, Phenix City, Alabama.

ADOPTED: March 22, 2005

## QUALIFICATIONS

Members of the Board of Education shall be persons of good moral character, with at least a minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent, a good standing in their respective communities, and known for their honesty, business ability, public spirit and interest in the good of public education. No member of the Board of Education may be an employee of the Board, or in any way subject to the Board's authority.

Furthermore, no member of the Board shall be financially interested, or have any personal benefit interests, either directly or indirectly, in the purchase of or contract for any personal property or contractual service with the Board of Education.

SOURCE: Russell County Board of Education, Phenix City, Alabama.  
ADOPTED: March 22, 2005

**TERMS OF OFFICE**

The members of the Board of Education shall be elected for a term of six (6) years.

SOURCE: Russell County Board of Education, Phenix City, Alabama.  
ADOPTED: March 22, 2005

**UNEXPIRED TERMS FULFILLMENT**

Vacancies on the Board of Education shall be filled by the appointment of a qualified person from within the vacated district, by the majority of the members remaining on the Board, within thirty (30) days.

SOURCE: Russell County Board of Education, Phenix City, Alabama.  
ADOPTED: March 22, 2005