

Bylaws

SUBJECT: SCHOOL DISTRICT AND BOARD OF EDUCATION LEGAL STATUS AND AUTHORITY

The Constitution of New York State instructs the Legislature to provide for a system of free common schools wherein all children of the State may be educated.

The State Legislature has implemented this constitutional mandate through the creation of school districts of various types. As a Union Free School District, the Mt. Pleasant-Blythedale Union Free School District is organized under and subject to the provisions of Education Law Article 35.

The Board is the corporate body charged with the general control, management, and responsibility of the schools of the Mt. Pleasant-Blythedale Union Free School District. As such, it possesses those powers and duties set forth in law.

The Board is authorized to act as a body duly called in session. Individual Board members have no authority over school affairs.

Funding For Special Act Public Schools

In 1980, the New York State Legislature passed the Institutional Schools Act, Chapter 563, which mandated that Special Act Public School Districts be funded through a rate setting system. Today, Special Act Public Schools receive most of their revenue through student tuition payments. Tuition rates are established annually by the State Education Department in conjunction with the Division of the Budget. The costs and tuition rate of Special Act Public Schools are not allowed to increase by more than certain fixed percentages.

Blythedale tuition is generally paid by County Departments of Social Services (DSS), for each child placed. The comptroller deducts from state aid due to a local school district an amount equal to the cost of educating the child in the local district. Transportation for day hospital students is the responsibility of the students' local school district.

Other moneys that supplement existing special act program funds include federal aid for children with disabilities and state aid for building and certain transportation costs. Building aid reimburses Special Act Public School Districts for 49% of the cost of construction or repair in the year after the costs are incurred.

Although Special Act Public School Districts are organized as Union Free School Districts, they have no qualified voters. Therefore, their budgets are not subject to a vote of the public. All are governed by Boards of Education, usually appointed by the Trustees of the child care agency.

Official Name of School District

The official name of the School District is Mount Pleasant-Blythedale Union Free School District.

Education Law §§ 2, 1501, 1604, 1701, 1709, 1804, 2502, and 2503

Adopted: 3/26/19