

Title of Section A: Foundations and Basic Commitments.

SCHOOL DISTRICT LEGAL STATUS

The legal basis for education in the City of Greenfield derives from the Constitution of Massachusetts, Chapter V, Section II; from Massachusetts statutes pertaining to education (See MASC's publication, Selected Massachusetts General Laws for School Committees, Constitution of Massachusetts); and from court interpretations of these laws and the powers implied in them.

Under the General Laws of Massachusetts,

"... Every town shall maintain, for at least the number of days required by the Board of Education, in each school year.... a sufficient number of schools for the instruction of all children who may legally attend a public school therein."

The Public Schools of Greenfield, Massachusetts, serve the City of Greenfield, which was incorporated in 1753, and students from other geographic areas who may choose to attend. A street list which defines the location of the public schools of Greenfield and a map of the school bus eligibility areas are available in the Superintendent's office.

The public educational system of the City of Greenfield is an autonomous department of the city operated under laws pertaining to education and under regulations of the Massachusetts Board of Education.

LEGAL REFS.: Constitution of Massachusetts, Part II, Chapter V, Section II
M.G.L. 71:1

CROSS REF.: BB, School Committee Legal Status

Historical Note: Massachusetts has the oldest public school system in the nation. Dating back to 1647, the laws of the Massachusetts Bay Colony required towns to provide for a program of public education.

SOURCE: MASC

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