

## **SCHOOL COMMITTEE LEGAL STATUS**

State law supports a city's charter in determining membership and terms of office (M.G.L. Ch. 41, S. 1)

The School Committee is the governing board of the public school system. Although it functions as a duly elected Committee of city government, the School Committee is, unlike other city departments, autonomous. It is authorized within limitations established by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to carry out the educational policies of the state and guide the educational process.

Established by charter of the City of Greenfield and supported by state law M.G.L. Article 4 – Section 41: School Committee

- a. Composition, Term of Office – There shall be a School Committee, which shall consist of seven (7) members. Six (6) of these shall be nominated and elected by and from the voters of the Town at large. The Mayor shall serve, by virtue of office, as the ninth member of the School Committee with all the same powers and duties as the members elected by the voters as School Committee members.
- b. Term of Office – The term of office for the six (6) persons elected by the voters as School Committee members shall be for three (3) years each, with staggered terms, beginning on the first business day of July after the Annual City Election and until their successors have been qualified.
- c. State law supports a city's charter in determining membership and terms of office (M.G.L. Ch. 41, §1).

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 41:1 and 71:37 specifically, but powers and duties of School Committees are established throughout the General Laws of Massachusetts Relating to School Committees

CROSS REFS.: City of Greenfield Charter  
AA, School District Legal Status  
BBA, School Committee Powers and Duties

Draft: 4-5-05  
Adopted 4-27-05  
Reviewed by Policy Subcommittee Mar. 9, 2010  
April 8, 2010 First Reading for revision  
April 22, 2010 Second Reading for adoption  
April 22, 2010 Adopted

