

School District Legal Status

The legal basis for public education in the City of Westfield is vested in the will of the people as expressed in the Constitution of Massachusetts and state statutes pertaining to education.

Under the General Laws of Massachusetts,

“...Every town shall maintain...a sufficient number of schools for the instruction of all children who may legally attend a public school therein.”

The public educational system of Westfield structurally is a department of the city operated under laws pertaining to education and under regulations of the Massachusetts Board of Education.

Established by law

LEGAL REFS.: Constitution of Massachusetts, Part II, Chapter V, Section II
MGL 71:1

CROSS REFS>: 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.

Reviewed: August 25, 2014 meeting