

As a body created under law by the State of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 38, the Blackhawk Technical College District Board has full authority, within the limitations of federal and state laws and the interpretation of time, to carry out the will of the people of this District in matters of technical and adult education.

The legal authority of the District is derived from the State, which determines the degree of discretionary power of the District Boards and the people of the District for the exercise of local autonomy.

Legal authority is granted only to the Board as a whole. Individual Board members or groups of Board members do not have independent authority to speak for the Board and should make no out-of-meeting commitments unless directed to do so on behalf of the Board.

The District Board is committed to fulfilling its duties and responsibilities according to Board Policy A-220. In Wisconsin Statute Chapter 38.14 (1) – (14), the District Board powers include:

- Legal Proceedings - The District Board may sue and be sued in the name of the District and may prosecute or defend all suits brought by or against the District.

The individual members of the Board and Administrative Staff of Blackhawk Technical College District shall be held harmless for any liability which they may incur in the normal course of their duties.

- Buildings and Equipment - For the use of District schools, the District Board may:
 - Purchase or lease materials, supplies and equipment.
 - Purchase or lease suitable land and buildings and rent to others any portion of such land and buildings not needed for school purposes.
 - Construct, enlarge and improve buildings. Existing school buildings shall be used as far as practicable.
 - All conveyances, leases and contracts shall be in the name of the District.
- Contracts for Services - The District Board may enter into contracts to provide educational services to public and private educational institutions, local governmental bodies, federal and state agencies, industries and businesses. It may contract with a foreign government or any business which is not operating in this state, if the District Board can demonstrate that the District will receive a direct and measurable benefit from the contract and that the contract will not result in a reduction in the quality of education at the College. Such contracts are subject to statutory conditions.

- Gifts and Grants - The District Board may accept gifts, grants and bequests to be used in the execution of its function.
- Advisory Committees - The District Board may establish advisory committees representing every occupation in the District.
- Transportation - The District Board may provide transportation for students within the District, but no state aid may be paid for this service.
- Sale of Articles - The District Board may sell at market value articles manufactured within the College. The proceeds from such sales shall be paid to the district treasurer.
- Activity, Incidental, and Vocational-Adult Seminar and Workshop Fees - The District Board may establish student activity and incidental fees to fund, in whole or in part, the cost of services and activities offered as support services for regular instruction. With the approval of the WTCS President/State Director, the District Board may establish fees for vocational-adult seminars and workshops, not to exceed the full cost of the seminar or workshop less the fee charged under Wisconsin Stats. 38.24 (1m).
- Bonds for Officers and Employees - The District Board may require an officer or employee of the District Board to give security for the faithful performance of his or her duties in such form and amount as the District Board determines and may require at any time additional bonds and sureties of any officer or employee.
- Displaced Homemakers Program - The District Board may apply for and spend grant funds from the State Board for displaced homemakers' programs. Such funds may be spent for contracts with local community organizations.
- Initiatives to Provide Coordinated Services - The District Board may participate in an initiative to provide coordinated services under s. 59.53(7) and may enter into written interagency agreements or contracts under the initiative, if the county board of supervisors establishes such an initiative.
- Parking Regulations and Fees - The District Board may establish parking regulations and fees for parking of motor vehicles on property under its jurisdiction.
- Student Identification Numbers - The District Board may assign to each student enrolled in the District a unique identification number which is not identical to or incorporates the student's social security number. This does not prohibit the Board from requiring the student to disclose his or her social security number.

Further, Wisconsin Statute Chapter 38.15 and 38.16 powers include:

- The District Board may levy an annual tax on the full value of the taxable property of the District for the purposes of making capital improvements, acquiring equipment, operating and maintaining the schools of the District, and paying principal and interest on valid bonds or notes now or hereafter outstanding as provided in s. 67.035.
- The District Board may borrow money and levy taxes to be used for the purchase or construction of buildings, enlargements and improvements to buildings, and for acquisition of sites and equipment. The District Board may issue its bonds or promissory notes under ch. 67 to pay the cost thereof.

Reference: Wisconsin Statute 38.01 and 38.14 (1) – (14), Policy A-220

Policy Adopted: February 20, 1974

Revised: December 16, 1987; February 16, 2000; March 17, 2004

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