

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

I. **Purpose**

Western Dakota Tech (WDT), as a distinct, separate local education agency (LEA), has a local governing board called the Board of Trustees. The purpose of the policy is to establish the membership and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees.

II. **General Statement of Policy**

A. Terms and Appointments

The Board of Trustees serves as the local governing board of WDT and its members should represent the area WDT serves, west river South Dakota. The Board of Trustees will consist of 9 members.

Upon initial establishment of the Board of Trustees, three board members shall serve an initial one-year term, three board members shall serve an initial two-year term, and three board members shall serve an initial three-year term. The Rapid City Area School (RCAS) Board shall appoint the initial board members.

All future board members will serve a three-year term. The Governor shall appoint the three board members whose initial terms were one year. The Board of Trustees, with input from trade and industry representatives in the region and WDT's President, shall appoint the three board members whose initial terms were two years. The RCAS Board, with input from trade and industry representatives in the region and WDT's President, shall appoint the three board members whose initial terms were three years.

No board member may serve more than three consecutive terms.

B. Duties and Responsibilities

The local governing board plays a critical role in setting the course for WDT's future. The Board of Trustees establishes the policies and procedures necessary to effectively carry out WDT's mission and advance the best interests of the students, faculty, staff, and community.

The local governing board is responsible for:

- Attending all regularly scheduled board meetings insofar as possible and being informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings;

- Representing both institutional and public interests in decision making;
- Collaborating with the Board of Technical Education to ensure that the needs of the public, business, and industry are met to the highest possible degree and in the most cost-effective and efficient manner;
- Approving policies that fulfill the institutional mission and set prudent, ethical, and legal standards for WDT operations;
- Assuring compliance and quality;
- Monitoring and supporting institutional and program accreditation;
- Hiring the WDT President;
- Supervising and evaluating the WDT President or appointing a designee to do so;
- Delegating power and authority to the WDT President to effectively lead and manage the institution;
- Ensuring the fiscal health and stability of WDT;
- Approving and monitoring the WDT budget;
- Approving local fees;
- Monitoring institutional performance and educational quality and encouraging continued improvement;
- Supporting and encouraging WDT's culture of shared governance;
- Advocating for and protecting WDT's ability to carry out its educational mission.

III. Definitions – None

IV. Reporting Procedures – None

V. Dissemination of Policy and Training

- A. This policy shall appear on the WDT website on the policy webpage.

Legal References: SDCL 13-39A-36, 13-39A-37, and 13-39A-38

Board Approved 12/02/2019; Effective 07/01/2020