

NON-COUNTY AGENCIES--EDUCATION

State law largely determines the operation of local school districts. Article IX of the Washington Constitution declares "it is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders, without distinction or preference on account of race, color, caste, or sex." There are five K-12 school districts within the boundaries of Kitsap County. They are Bainbridge Island, North Kitsap, Central Kitsap, Bremerton and South Kitsap School Districts.

Each district has a five-member board of directors, who are elected in November of the odd-numbered years by voters residing inside district boundaries. Directors serve four-year, overlapping terms. Board meetings are open to the public and are held regular reoccurring times and places. School districts are funded from various sources including state revenues, apportioned by a formula that takes into account enrollment, basic education, vocational and handicapped education programs, and pupil transportation.

All five school districts receive federal impact funds and may also receive federal funds for specific educational programs or purposes. With the approval of the voters, a school district may assess local property tax for construction (bond levies) and, within certain limits, for operation and maintenance (special levies).

KITSAP COUNTY WASHINGTON

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