

SCHOOL COUNCILS

The School Committee believes that the school is the key unit for educational improvement and change and that successful school improvement is best accomplished through a school-based decision-making process. Under this policy, the Principal shall have primary responsibility for the management of the school.

As enacted by the state legislature in the Education Reform Act of 1993, a school council shall be established in each school to advise the Principal in specific areas of school operation. The Principal, except as specifically defined in the law, shall have the responsibility for defining the composition of and forming the group pursuant to a representative process approved by the School Committee. State law requires that school councils be comprised of parents of children attending the school, teachers of the school, members of the community who are not parents of children attending the school, and at the high school level, students in grade 9 or above. Parents/guardians shall have parity with professional personnel on school councils and not more than fifty percent of the council shall be non-school members. School Councils should be broadly representative of the racial and ethnic diversity of the school building and community.

School Council members are considered "public officials" and as such subject to conflict of interest provisions of state law. To provide for a greater diversity of perspectives and voices on the school councils and to avoid potential conflict of interests, a parent/guardian shall be eligible to serve on only one School Council at a time. In addition, no parent/guardian member of a school council shall also hold a position of "public official" on another school or municipal council, committee, or board.

Parent members shall have parity with professional school personnel and shall be chosen in elections held by the recognized parent teacher organization under the direction of the Principal, or if no recognized parent teacher organization exists, chosen by a representative process approved by the School Committee.

The Principal shall act as a co-chair with another member of the Council.

The School Council shall meet regularly with the Principal of the school and shall assist in:

- Identification of the educational needs of the students attending the school.
- Formulation of a school improvement plan
- Make recommendations for the development, implementation and assessment of the curriculum accommodation plan required pursuant to section 38Q1/2.
- Review of the annual school budget.

REVISED: October 27, 2020

ADOPTED: October 7, 2014

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REFS: M.G.L. 71:38Q, 71:59C

CROSS REF: BDFA-E-1, School Improvement Plan