



Lawrence Public Schools

Policy

Section C: General Administration

CEA

Subject: School Leadership Teams

Policy Statement

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The district's governing body 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. By involving those directly affected by any action or decision of the School Leadership Team in the process of determining that action or decision, it helps to strengthen the commitment of those decisions by those most affected by its implementation.

Under this policy, the Principal shall have primary responsibility for the management of the school. Decisions that are made at the school level must be aligned with the budget, policies, curriculum, and long-range and short-range goals adopted the governing board of the district. In addition, decisions must comply with any state and federal laws and regulations and with any negotiated agreements of the Lawrence Public Schools.

To support a collaborative approach to school-based decision making, and as enacted by the state legislature in the Education Reform Act of 1993, a School Leadership Team shall be established and maintained in each school to advise the Principal in specific areas of school operation. The Principal, utilizing the state's regulatory guidelines (Ch71§59C) as outlined below, shall have the responsibility for defining the composition of the group and **overseeing the formation of the Council**, pursuant to a representative process approved by the Superintendent and district governing body. The composition shall include:

- The school principal, who shall co-chair the council;
- **The other co-chair will be elected by the full school council membership.**
- Parents of students attending the school who shall be selected by the parents of students attending such school, who will be chosen in elections held by the local recognized parent teacher organization under the direction of the principal, or if none exists, chosen by a representative process approved by the superintendent or his/her designee;
- Teachers who shall be selected by the **faculty** in such school;
- Other persons, not parents or teachers of students at the school, drawn from community organizations, municipal government, business and labor organizations, institutions of higher education, human services agencies or other interested groups; and
- For schools containing any of the grades nine to twelve, at least one student.
- **The school council's composition should be "broadly representative of the racial and ethnic diversity of the school building and the community."**



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Parents shall have parity with professional personnel on the school councils; **not** more than fifty percent of the council **shall** be non-school members.

The following guidelines define the role of the School Leadership Team:

1. Adoption of educational goals for the school that are consistent with federal, state and local policies and standards;
2. Identification of the educational needs of the students attending the school;
3. Review of the school budget; and
4. Formulation of a School Comprehensive Education Plan (School Improvement Plan) that may be implemented only after review and approval of the Superintendent and the **district's governing body**;
5. **If the school contains students in Grades 9-12, the School Council shall each spring review the student handbook to consider changes in the disciplinary process to take effect the following school year;**
6. **Perform other responsibilities including policy making as granted by the district's governing council**

In accordance with state regulations, the principal shall convene the first meeting of the School Leadership Team no later than 40 school days after the first day of school, at which meeting a co-chair shall be selected. The School Leadership Team shall meet regularly, and shall meet at least once annually with any parent advisory councils, if requested.

Meetings of the school council shall be subject to the provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18 through 25.

Legal Refs: MGL 71§37H, 71:59C, 71:38Q, 30A:18-25

First Reading: 8/14/2019

Second Reading:

Adoption:

Proposed Reconsideration: