

## 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 Superintendent. 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.

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:

1. Adoption of educational goals for the school that are consistent with state and local policies and standards.
2. Identification of the educational needs of the students attending the school.
3. Review of the school building budget.
4. Formulation of a school improvement plan, in accordance with state statutes, which is implemented only after the Superintendent's approval.
5. Review of the student handbook of the school.

State law allows the School Committee to grant a school council additional authority in the area of educational policy, provided that such authority does not involve labor relations.

Adopted: October 7, 2014

SOURCE: MASC

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

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