

Downey Unified School District

INSTRUCTION

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL

AR 3160

At each school approved by the Board of Education to participate in State-funded programs requiring a school council the principal, in cooperation with the school staff, parents, other community representatives, and students, shall provide for the establishment of a School Site Council. The School Site Council shall be responsible for developing a local program plan to be submitted to the Board for approval, and for establishing and maintaining communications with the Board of Education, school, and community.

Purpose

It shall be the purpose of the School Site Council to improve communications and understanding among community members, educators, and, in the case of high schools, students, and to work cooperatively in developing a school plan.

Composition

All parents of children enrolled in the school, residents of the school attendance area, school staff members, and, in high schools, pupils, shall be eligible for membership and participation.

The specific number of people serving at any one time on a given School Site Council shall be left to the discretion of the school community. At the elementary and middle school levels the councils shall be constituted to ensure parity between (a) the principal, classroom teachers, and other school personnel and (b) parents and other community members. At the high school level the council shall be constituted to ensure parity between (a) the principal, classroom teachers, and other school personnel and (b) equal numbers of parents and students.

At all levels classroom teachers shall comprise the majority of persons represented under subdivision (a) of this section. Those members identified as community on the council shall not be employees of the District. A parent shall not be disqualified by virtue of his/her employment in the District from serving as a parent representative on the SSC for the school his/her child attends if the parent is not employed at that school site.

Selection and Replacement of Members

All interested persons including but not limited to the principal, classroom teachers, other school personnel, parents, and, in high schools, pupils, shall have an opportunity to meet in public to establish a School Site Council.

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Selection and Replacement of Members - continued

The selection of members on the council shall be a local school decision arrived at through election following an open nomination process with a guaranteed time period for nominations to be made. Representatives of classroom teachers shall be selected by classroom teachers at the school, other school personnel selected by other school personnel at the school, parents or other community members selected by parents, and in high schools, pupils selected by pupils attending the school.

The length of service and replacement of members on the council shall be a local School Site Council decision. Council composition requirements shall be maintained.

Functions

After a School Site Council has been organized the council will discuss the implications of the proposed program for its school. Upon the vote of a majority of persons represented pursuant to the composition regulation of subdivision (a) and a majority of the persons represented in subdivision (b), the council may request that the Board of Education include or exclude the school from participation in the program. A request to be excluded must be made in writing with an explanation and rationale for that decision. If the Board of Education accepts such request the school must reconsider this action no later than three years from the date of the decision not to participate. Final determination as to whether a local school will participate in the program shall rest with the Board of Education. Other decisions affecting the development of the plan not arrived at by consensus shall be determined by majority vote of all School Site Council members.

The School Site Council's functions shall be to

1. Develop and recommend the school plan to the Board of Education for approval.
2. Review the implementation of the program and its effectiveness.
3. Annually review the plan, establish a new budget, and make modifications as necessary.
4. Consider participation/continuation in the program.

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Functions - continued

The School Site Council may be designated for a maximum of two years by any State-required advisory committee or council to function as that advisory committee or council for all purposes required by State statute or regulations.

Limitations

The management of programs to meet the needs of students is the responsibility of professional educators who must consider legal requirements and policies, regulations, goals, and requirements established by the Board of Education. Such management shall take into consideration recommendations of the School Site Councils.

The responsibility for District personnel matters rests with the Superintendent. Any concern related to the conduct or competence of an individual must be pursued through procedures established by State law and/or regulations of the District.

Any participant, whether resident, student, or staff, may recommend on matters related to educational programs, policies, and procedures. The accountability and responsibility for the operation of the school shall rest with the principal. Responsibility for the establishment of policy is vested by law in the District's elected Board of Education.