



INSTRUCTION

Shared Decision Making

Student learning is at the core of the school district's mission. Since students' learning needs vary and learning is most successful in a highly supportive environment in which teachers, students, parents and others work closely and harmoniously together, it is essential to focus attention on plans for improving student learning at each school. In developing and implementing those plans school staff must work closely with parents, community members and, where appropriate, students. Varying models for Shared Decision Making may be chosen by individual school communities. If School Learning Teams are selected, the following guidelines apply. If another model is chosen, guidelines for their work should be submitted for approval.

School Learning Teams

School Learning Teams shall develop bylaws to govern operations. The bylaws shall be submitted to the board for review and approval. As a minimum the bylaws shall:

- 1) identify the membership of the team and, as a minimum, include the principal, non-administrative certificated staff, classified staff, parents, members of the community served by the school, and students (in middle and high schools); provided that, members of any one of the foregoing groups shall not constitute a majority of the team;
- 2) assure that the school's diversity is adequately reflected on the team;
- 3) provide that, whenever practicable, team members shall be elected by the group they represent. In the absence of an election an open process for application and appointment by the board shall be established;
- 4) provide for annual self-evaluation of the work of the team as part of its report to the board; and
- 5) identify the communication responsibilities of the team and its members for the purpose of keeping informed all people with an interest in the work of the school.

Communications

The School Learning Team shall identify specific communications activities that will keep the general community informed about efforts to improve learning as well as keep specific audiences, such as parents, students, and staff, informed about the work of the teams. The communications responsibilities of members of the SLT shall be identified in the team's bylaws.

Implementation

Annual reports from the School Learning Teams shall be considered by the board in conjunction with its annual review of the district's strategic plan. The superintendent shall develop procedures or guidelines to implement the provisions of this policy. The principals shall be both members of their respective teams and technical advisers to their teams and shall assist the superintendent in achieving the purposes of this policy.

Legal Reference:	RCW 28A.300.138	Student Learning Improvement Grants
	Ch. 180-18 WAC	Waivers for restructuring purposes
	ESHB 1209	

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References Updated: February, 1996
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