

21st Century Schools Councils

The following administrative regulations shall serve as guidelines for the development of 21st Century Schools Councils.

Decision Making

The measures set forth in these rules and regulations should not be interpreted as diminishing the central role of the Board or the Board's legal authority (ORS 332.072). The mission, beliefs, priorities and policies of the Board continue to be central to the operation of the district.

21st Century Schools Councils shall be accountable and responsible to the district for the decisions they make. Building administrators will work with their site councils to implement school goals and objectives in the areas of school improvement and program and staff development. The duties of 21st Century Schools Councils under state law shall include, but are not limited to:

1. The development of plans to improve the professional growth of a school's staff;
2. The improvement of its instructional program;
3. The development and coordination of plans for the implementation of programs in accordance with Oregon's Educational Act for the 21st Century;
4. The administration of grants-in-aid for the professional development of teachers and classified district employees; and
5. Advising the Board in the development of a plan for school safety and student discipline as developed by the Center for School Safety.

Duties shall not include making decisions that:

1. Supersede Board policy, state laws and rules, Oregon educational standards or federal laws and regulations; or
2. Conflict with the collective bargaining agreements with the LCEA and OSEA.

Duties shall not:

1. Deny the due process rights of any employee or student.

It is the responsibility of the building administrator to see that the site council operates within the parameters set by the district. The role of the building administrator is pivotal to the success of the implementation of 21st Century Schools Councils. Building administrators assume increased building responsibility for the organization and implementation of councils and to foster and support increased building responsibility. To achieve this, site councils will work through their building administrator to assist in determining goals and objectives for the school, and for program and staff development. All activities in these areas, however, must be in alignment with Board-adopted goals and objectives.

Schools, in collaboration with their site councils, will be expected to develop a clear set of education objectives and their performance in meeting those objectives shall be monitored by the district. The district will hold schools accountable for the goals they establish.

Membership

A 21st Century Schools Council shall be composed of teachers, parents, classified employees and building administrators or the building administrator's designee, as follows:

1. Not more than half of the members shall be teachers;
2. Not more than half of the members shall be parents of students attending that school;
3. At least one member shall be a classified employee;
4. One member shall be the building administrator or designee.

In addition, other members may be as the district shall designate, including, but not limited to, local school committee members, business leaders, students and members of the community-at-large.

Each school council must develop a process for selection of community members. Councils are encouraged to include nominations through parent or support groups, an open application process or other means determined by the council.

Members of 21st Century Schools Councils shall be selected as follows:

1. Teachers shall be licensed teachers elected by licensed teachers at the school site;
2. Classified employees shall be elected by classified employees at the school site;
3. Parents shall be selected by parents of students attending the school, by a process to be defined by the Board; and
4. Other representatives shall be selected by the council.

The council reserves the right to remove a member for nonattendance or for noncompliance with district guidelines for 21st Century Schools Councils.

If the Board determines that a school site is unable to fulfill the requirements of this section or if the needs of a school site require a different composition, the Board shall establish the 21st Century Schools Council in a manner that best meets the educational needs of the district.

Term of Office

The term of office for all members except the building administrator or designee shall be two years, with the term of half the members in each category up for renewal each year. Lots will be drawn the first year to decide the one and two years of service. Thereafter, all terms will be two years and will commence, depending on the decision of each site council, in August or January.

Roles and Organization of Site Council

The district shall ensure that each site council:

1. Establishes a chair, vice chair and secretary;
2. Keeps records of all meetings and actions. An on-site record of meetings will be maintained. Highlights of each meeting will be sent to the appropriate director;
3. Reports to school staff, school Board, local school committee, parents and community members;
4. Allows for input from all concerned individuals on issues within the scope of the council;
5. Takes advantage of training opportunities available to all site council members;
6. Organizes, as appropriate, ad hoc committees to implement specific tasks;
7. Reviews each meeting to assess the effectiveness of the process; and
8. Use the district evaluation process to assess the effectiveness of the council.

All 21st Century Schools Councils will comply with Oregon’s Public Meetings Law, ORS 192.640.