

**Greater Albany SD 8J**  
**Board Policy**

Code: **IFCA**  
Adopted: 5/13/94  
Revised/Readopted: 3/12/01, 8/5/02,  
8/13/07  
Orig. Code(s): BP 2030

## **21st Century Schools Councils**

The Board directs the district to implement shared decision making through the creation of 21st Century Schools Councils at each school site. The purpose of these councils is to enhance the achievement of all students through improvement of the instructional program and support services. The councils are intended to promote collaborative decision-making in the schools by the community, parents, or guardians<sup>1</sup>, classified staff, teachers and administrators of the schools.

Shared decision making is regarded by the Board as a process, not an end in itself. The implementation of this process shall involve regular communication between the Board, administration and councils as well as periodic review and evaluation.

Schools planning to form a 21st Century Schools Council shall apply to the Board for approval of its program. Any significant change to an existing program must be approved by the superintendent. In addition, all 21st Century Schools Councils must notify the superintendent of certain basic information each year, in the fall.

The council will be composed of teachers, classified employee(s), the building administrator or designee and parent(s) or guardian(s) of students attending the school. In addition, the Board encourages inclusion of business leaders, students and members of the community at-large. Not more than half of the council members shall be teachers, not more than half of the members shall be parents or guardians of students attending that school, at least one member shall be a classified employee and one member shall be the principal of the building or the principal's designee. If the Board determines that a school site is unable to fulfill these requirements, or if the Board determines that the needs of a school site require a different composition, the Board may establish the council in a manner that best meets the educational needs of the district.

School councils shall make decisions about the number on their council, terms of office, rotation of membership, selection of chairperson, replacement of members who leave and their decision-making process.

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<sup>1</sup>As used in this policy, the term parent includes legal guardian or person in a parental relationship. The status and duties of a legal guardian are defined in ORS 125.005 (4) and 125.300 - 125.325. The determination of whether an individual is acting in a parental relationship, for purposes of determining residency depends on evaluation of those factors and a power of attorney executed pursuant to ORS 109.056. For special education students, parent also includes a surrogate parent, and adult student to whom rights have transferred and foster parent as defined in OAR 581-015-0005 (18).

Members of the councils shall be selected as follows: Teachers shall be licensed teachers elected by licensed teachers at the school site; classified employee shall be elected by classified employees at the school site; parents or guardians shall be selected by the parents or guardians of students attending the school using a process chosen at that school; and other representatives shall be selected by the council.

Council duties shall include those specified in ORS 329.704. Minimal duties include: (1) the development of a plan to improve the professional growth of a school’s staff; (2) the improvement of the building’s instructional program; (3) the development and coordination of plans for the implementation of programs at the school 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 employees; (5) advising the Board in the development of a plan for school safety and student discipline under ORS 339.333. Additional duties may be approved by the Board upon application by the school council.

The superintendent shall direct the creation of an evaluation process and will arrange for regular reports to the Board on the success of the council’s endeavors. The superintendent shall regulate council decisions regarding their effect on other schools in the district.

Application to waive board policy may be made by a council but must be approved by the Board. Waiver of contract provisions, state administrative rule(s) and state statute must also be approved by the Board before further processing. Site councils shall not interfere with the duties, responsibilities and rights of duly elected school district boards except as allowed by the Board.

All 21st Century Schools Council meetings shall be subject to the Open Meetings Law. School councils will not meet in executive session.

The district may establish a district site committee to assist in the administration of grants or in the district-wide coordination of programs.

END OF POLICY

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**Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 109.056](#)  
[ORS 125.005\(4\)](#)  
[ORS 125.300-125.325](#)  
[ORS 192.660 - 192.690](#)  
[ORS 342.513](#)  
[ORS 243.650](#)  
[ORS 243.782](#)  
[ORS 329.125](#)  
[ORS 329.675 - 329.745](#)  
[ORS 332.172](#)

[ORS 339.333](#)  
[ORS 342.545](#)  
[ORS 342.553](#)  
[ORS 342.608](#)  
[ORS 342.610](#)  
[ORS 342.613](#)  
[ORS 342.650](#)  
[ORS 419B.373](#)

[OAR 581-015-0005\(18\)](#)  
[OAR 581-020-0105](#)  
[OAR 581-020-0115](#)  
[OAR 581-020-0130](#)