

Neah-Kah-Nie School District 56

Code: **IFCA-AR**
Adopted: 11/12/01
Readopted: 3/10/08; 6/08/15
Orig. Code(s): IFCA-AR

21st Century Schools Councils

The district shall have 21st Century Schools Councils at each school. 21st Century Schools Councils shall consist of the following:

Membership

1. Membership on each council shall include:
 - a. Teachers (not more than half of the members shall be teachers);
 - b. The principal or designee;
 - c. Classified employee (at least one member shall be a classified employee);
 - d. Parent (not more than half of the members shall be parents of students attending that school).

“Teachers” are defined as licensed employees employed by the district. The teachers and classified representatives are to be elected by their peers. Parent representatives shall be selected by parents of students attending the school by a process to be defined by the Board. The council may appoint additional representatives from the community at-large.

2. Each employee group shall present candidates and hold an election on or before October 1 of each year. Terms of office shall be determined by each council. It is suggested that all elected terms do not expire in the same year.
3. If the Board determines that a school site is unable to fulfill the requirement of the 21st Century Schools Council as outlined in this policy, 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.

Council Structure

1. Each council shall elect a chair, vice chair and secretary.
2. The chair shall jointly plan the meeting agendas with the principal.
3. Minutes of meetings shall be provided to all staff members and to the superintendent.

Duties and Responsibilities

The duties of the 21st Century Schools Council shall include, but not be limited to:

1. The development of plans to improve the professional growth of the school’s staff;

2. The improvement of the school'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.

The following activities are for the consideration of building school councils. Please note that these are only suggestions and **are not** in priority order. School councils are encouraged to select from three to five activities to work on during the year: (Additional items must be submitted to the superintendent for approval).

1. Help develop building goals and assess progress toward attainment;
2. Act as a conduit for information between parents and school staff;
3. Gather and analyze data;
4. Develop a building calendar of events and activities;
5. Review and refine rules, codes of conduct;
6. Assist with school climate;
7. Help with building's public relations program;
8. Help with community service program;
9. Help with building's volunteer program;
10. Help with professional development or instructional programs, speakers or conferences.

Limitations of School Council Decision Making

Individual school councils may not:

1. Make decisions that supersede Board policy, state laws and regulations, educational standards or federal laws and regulations;
2. Deviate from established districtwide curriculum and staff development programs without authority from the superintendent;
3. Reallocate building expenditures except for supply and equipment allocations;
4. Determine Full-time Equivalent (FTE) of building personnel;

5. Conflict with the collective bargaining agreements of the Neah-Kah-Nie Teacher Education Association (NTEA) and the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) Chapter No. 93;
6. Conflict with the goals of the district.

No actions taken by a school council may supersede the authority of the administration or Board.

21st Century Schools Councils may request a waiver of Board policy. Waiver requests must be submitted in writing to the superintendent. The superintendent will submit the waiver request and his/her recommendation to the Board for final approval. Policy waiver requests will be considered based on the district's mission statement, philosophy, Board-adopted goals and effective schooling tenets.

All 21st Century Schools Council decisions are subject to superintendent and Board review and approval, respectively. In no case will 21st Century Schools Councils abrogate any provision of the district's collective bargaining agreements, district contracts or Board policy, except through the waiver process.

Assessment of the School Council Program

Each school council shall assess its school improvement progress.

Program assessment may include:

1. Quality of the written School Improvement Plan;
2. Minutes of all meetings;
3. A survey of all school council members to determine their perception of success;
4. Progress made toward achievement of school improvement goals.

Public Meetings Law

School councils, the duties of which include advising the Board or making decisions which may be delegated by the Board, shall follow the notice, meeting and record keeping requirements of the Public Meetings Law.