

## 21st Century Schools Councils

The Board authorizes the district to implement shared decision making in the district through the creation of 21st Century Schools Councils. 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 shared decision making in the schools by the community, parents, 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 to enhance student achievement shall involve regular communication between the Board, administration, councils and students as well as periodic review and evaluation.

Shared decision making is based on three fundamental beliefs:

1. Those most closely affected by decisions ought to play a significant role in making those decisions.
2. The school is the most manageable organizational unit within which to make changes.
3. Changes will be most effective and long-lasting when carried out by people who feel a sense of ownership and responsibility.

School councils will be composed of teachers, classified employee(s), the school principal or designee and parent(s) of students. In addition, the Board encourages inclusion of members of the community at-large and, when appropriate, students.

Council duties shall include those specified in ORS 329.675 - 829.745 and 339.333. Minimal duties include (1) the development of plans to improve the professional growth and career opportunities of a school's staff; (2) the improvement of the instructional program; (3) the development and coordination of Oregon's Educational Act for the 21st Century at the school; and (4) advising the board in the development of a plan for school safety and student discipline. The superintendent shall direct the creation of an evaluation process and will arrange for regular reports to the Board on the success of the councils' endeavors. Also the superintendent shall regulate council decisions regarding their effect on other schools in the district.

No council has the authority to override Board policy, administrative regulations or administrative decisions without the approval of the superintendent and Board respectively.

Application to waive Board policy may be made by a council but must be approved by the Board. Waiver of contract provisions, state administrative rules and state statutes must also be approved by the Board before further action can be taken.

In order for shared decision making to be effective, it is necessary that the Board, administration, staff and community make a commitment to:

1. A system-wide culture that supports collegiality and collaboration with a demonstrated commitment to shared decision making.
2. Professional development to acquire the skills needed for shared decision making at the school level.

To these ends, the Board directs the superintendent to support schools with funds that are needed for implementation of the 21st Century Schools Councils. This funding will occur through the regular budgeting process.

A district site committee may be created with Board approval upon request by the district. This committee will adhere to the legal guidelines in ORS 329.704 (7).

END OF POLICY

---

**Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 192.660 - 192.690](#)  
[ORS 243.650](#)  
[ORS 243.782](#)  
[ORS 329.125](#)  
[ORS 329.675 - 329.745](#)  
[ORS 332.172](#)  
[ORS 339.333](#)  
[ORS 342.513](#)

[ORS 342.545](#)  
[ORS 342.553](#)  
[ORS 342.608](#)  
[ORS 342.610](#)  
[ORS 342.613](#)  
[ORS 342.650](#)

[OAR 581-020-0105](#)  
[OAR 581-020-0115](#)  
[OAR 581-020-0130](#)