

**Winston-Dillard
School District 116**

Code: **IFCA**
Adopted: 7/10/02
Readopted: 4/20/11
Orig. Code(s): IFCA

21st Century Schools Councils

21st Century Schools Councils are mechanisms for implementing shared decision making for school improvement. Shared decision making is one of many strategies to initiate and realize school improvement. It is a process, not an end in itself. Shared decision making provides opportunities for all members of a school community to collaborate, where appropriate, in solving problems, defining goals, and shaping direction for an individual school. The overall purpose of shared decision making is to enhance student achievement through both improvement of the instructional program and delivery of support services.

21st Century Schools Councils neither remove nor replace the legal responsibilities of the Board, the superintendent, district staff or administrators. Site-based decision making through the 21st Century Schools Council means moving some decisions traditionally made by the central office to the building level and, in turn, providing opportunities for staff and community members to participate in some decisions normally made unilaterally by the principal. Collaboration is the essential component in shared decision making.

The Board subscribes to and supports the concept of shared decision making as outlined in Oregon's Educational Act for the 21st Century and delineated in ORS 329.705 governing 21st Century Schools Councils.

1. Each school in the district shall establish a 21st Century Schools Council, whose duties shall include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Development of plans to improve the professional growth of the school's staff;
 - b. The improvement of the school's instructional program; and
 - c. Development and coordination of plans for the implementation of programs under ORS Chapter 329 at the school;
 - d. Administration of grants-in-aid for the professional development of teachers and classified district employees; and
 - e. Advising the board in the development of a plan for school safety and student discipline under ORS 339.333.

2. Each 21st Century Schools Council shall be composed of the following:
 - a. Not more than half shall be teachers (may include licensed library and/or media specialists and licensed school counselors), elected by licensed teachers of the school site;
 - b. The principal or the principal's designee;
 - c. At least one member shall be a classified employee, elected by classified employees at the school site; and

- d. Not more than half of the members shall be parents or legal guardians of students, elected by parents of students attending the school.
3. In making recommendations, the 21st Century Schools Council shall:
 - a. Use effective research and assessment to support a recommendation;
 - b. Stay within the district's vision and goals;
 - c. Collaborate with other schools in the district, the district office, and other 21st Century Schools Councils in the district;
 - d. Utilize facilitated shared decision-making;
 - e. Stay within frameworks established by federal law, state law, Oregon Administrative Rules, Board policies, negotiated collective bargaining agreements, and Board-adopted curriculum; and
 - f. Maintain frequent communication with the board in the conceptual stage of plans to develop the knowledgeable support of the Board.
 4. The 21st Century Schools Council shall select its own chair or facilitator and recorder.
 5. The 21st Century Schools Council shall determine its recommendations and actions through the application of consensus-building.
 6. The 21st Century Schools Council's recommendations addressing significant changes in curriculum or instructional methodology, requiring reallocation of fiscal resources, or having an impact districtwide, must be adopted by the Board before implementation.

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.

21st Century Schools Councils may request a waiver of Board policy. Waiver requests must be submitted in writing to the superintendent. The superintendent shall submit the waiver request and his or her recommendation to the Board for final approval. Policy waiver requests shall 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 shall 21st Century Schools Councils abrogate any provision of the district's collective bargaining agreements, district contracts, or Board policy, except through the waiver process.

21st Century Schools Councils shall follow the notice, meeting, and record keeping requirements of the Public Meetings Law.

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](#)