
Summary

The A-Plus Education Reform Act of 2000 (H.B 1187), as amended, establishes the school council initiative in school districts throughout the state. The school council concept is designed to "... improve communication and participation of parents and the community in the management and operation of local schools". The school councils bring communities closer together to solve educational problems, improve academic achievement and to provide support for teachers and administrators.

The primary role of the school council is to advise, assist and recommend on those matters where the council has purview, consistent with the school council law.

(Consult the School Council Law for additional information.)

The School Council:

- Is an advisory group
- Focuses on school improvement and student achievement
- Is a new method of involving the community in the educational process
- Is not a mini board of education
- Is not a political forum
- Does not run the day-to-day operations of the school
- Is not responsible for hiring and firing of school personnel
- Exists to provide advice, assistance and recommendations on matters relating to student achievement and school improvement
- Members are accountable to the various stakeholders they represent



The School Council Initiative



School Council Brochure (revised)

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The School Council

The school council initiative is an essential educational tool for enhancing student achievement and school improvement.

The school council concept is the creation of Georgia law. It was established by H.B 1187, the A Plus Educational Reform Act of 2000. The Act mandated the establishment of school councils in all schools by October 2003. The Act,



through the school councils, fosters a collaborative relationship among school administrators, teachers, parents and the business community.

The Savannah-Chatham County Public School district has approximately 50 active schools councils. This number includes each of the elementary, k-8, middle and high schools. (Charter School are not included in this number.)

The school councils exercise a special advisory relationship with the school board, the Superintendent and the principal. This relationship includes offering advice when the school district is considering a new principal at an individual school.

School council meetings are held at a destination determined by the council. The meeting times are established by each individual school councils.

School Council: What Is It?

The school council is an individual advisory group attached to each school. It is established to enhance student achievement and school improvement. The membership includes the principal, teachers, parents and business partners. The parents are elected by other parents, and the teachers are elected by qualified teachers at the school. The school council selects and appoints the business representatives. Parents are to constitute a majority of the membership

School councils function independently of any other group connected to the school, including the PTA.

The primary role of the council is to recommend, advise and assist.

All councils meet a minimum of four (4) time a year. Meetings of school councils are open to the public and the media. (Similar to the School Board.)

What Does It Mean To You?

If you are a principal, it means that you are a key person on the council. You have a host of responsibilities in managing the administrative affairs of the council. The principal, along with the chairperson, sets the meeting agenda and handles the administrative affairs of the school council. For teachers, it means that you participate in electing two or more of your peers to serve on the council. Following the election, the selected teachers become members of the school council body, meeting periodically with the principal, parents and business partners. For the parent population, this presents another opportunity to become involved and to offer advice. For the business partners, it is an opportunity to share knowledge and experience with school personnel and parents.

General Information

Council members receive formal training sponsored by the Board of Education.

There are three mandatory officers for each council: chairperson, vice chairperson and a secretary. ***A parent must be elected chairperson by school council members.***

School councils may establish procedures for the inclusion of students and others (consistent with its bylaws) as part of its membership.

The school council law does not remove the responsibility of overall management and control from the local school board and superintendent.

Members do not receive remuneration to serve on the council or its committees.

School council year is July 1 through June 30.

The minutes of each council's proceedings are to be available at the school for public inspection following each council meeting.

The media must be notified at least 24 hours in advance of a council meeting. Two weeks in advance of parent and teacher elections.

Under a recent change in the law, a parent is to serve as chairperson of the school council.

School council bylaws govern the membership, meetings and activities of the council consistent with the law, as amended.