

SITE-BASED DECISION-MAKING

Background

Site-based decision-making is defined as a process for devolving increased responsibility and accountability for decisions to the stakeholders at the site level. The concept of site-based decision-making is based on a strategy that those most closely connected with the education of children are capable, can be trusted and are ultimately responsible for making decisions that affect the school lives of students. The process of bringing together all stakeholders-staff, students, parents, church, and community members should have the effect of releasing the boundless energy, dedication and creativity of those people who function closest to the implementation of the learning/teaching process.

The process should result in better decisions, which reflect community needs and desires. The site-based decision-making process is incorporated into the comprehensive Division leadership framework document. The Superintendent or designate will, as a part of a renewal process, review all dimensions of the framework and make any refinements necessary.

The Division believes that given a commensurate level of authority and resources site-based decision-making will enhance student achievement and increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the delivery of the school's instructional program.

Procedures

1. The following criteria are integral to the successful implementation of site-based decision-making.
 - 1.1 The primary focus must be on the learner and the learning process.
 - 1.2 The school must be the focus of improvements.
 - 1.3 The authority and the accompanying responsibility/accountability of the site must be expanded.
 - 1.4 Meaningful involvement by all stakeholders is vital.
 - 1.5 There is equitable access to a quality education by all students.
 - 1.6 The preferred mode of decision-making is one of cooperation and collaboration.
 - 1.7 The Division office must serve as a service and support agency to the school as well as serving in an administrative capacity.
2. The implementation of site-based decision-making requires the sites to meet the following legal conditions:

- 2.1 Provincial statutes and regulations must be obeyed.
 - 2.2 School board policies and administrative procedures must be followed.
 - 2.3 All contracts and terms of employment must be honoured.
 - 2.4 School board resolutions setting out the parameters for the implementation of site-based decision-making that may be passed from time to time such as Division priorities, decision-making constraints, principles of allocation and basis for allocation.
3. The Principal of the school shall be responsible and accountable to the Superintendent for the implementation of site-based decision-making at the school level.
 4. The Superintendent shall be responsible and accountable to the Board for the implementation of site-based decision-making at the Division level.
 5. The Superintendent will present an evaluation report annually to the Board on site-based decision-making. The report should include strengths, weaknesses, and recommendations for change.

Reference: Section 52, 67, *Education Act*
School-Based Decision-Making Policy 1.8.2
Division Leadership Framework