

**WEST LINN-WILSONVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SCHOOL BOARD POLICY**

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**21st CENTURY SCHOOL COUNCILS (*aka Site Councils*)**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of 21st Century Schools Councils (*aka Site Councils*) is to increase student achievement. In compliance with provisions of the Oregon Educational Act for the 21st Century, it is the policy of the West Linn-Wilsonville School Board to establish 21st Century Schools Councils in each of the district's schools. It is the School Board's belief that when a group of people who represent different parts of an educational community come together to work in a collaborative manner to improve education, student achievement will increase.

The School Board believes that all students can learn and should have the opportunity to achieve their maximum learning potential. Achieving this goal will best be accomplished through school-based decision making with equitable family-school-community partnerships.

**Governance:**

All positions and recommendations of the councils shall be in compliance and consistent with state law, West Linn/Wilsonville School Board policy, the district's vision, goals, and operating procedures.

Nothing contained in this policy shall be construed as creating any legal authority on the part of the school councils or their members to perform any of the duties or functions delegated by statute to the School Board.

**Duties:**

To the extent practicable and within parameters established above, school councils shall be responsible for:

Development and implementation of a plan to improve the school's instructional program,

Development and implementation of a plan to improve the professional growth of the school staff,

Development and implementation of a plan to coordinate the implementation of the Oregon Educational Act for the 21st Century at the school site,

Administration of a 21st Century school grant, if awarded to the school,

Development of brief written summary reports of school site work to the School Board in May,

School council work and interest in areas other than those designated above shall be advisory.

No council shall have the authority to override contractual agreements, district curriculum adoptions, administrative rules or regulations, administrative decisions, or Board policy, without the approval of the superintendent and the Board, respectively.

No council shall have the authority to expend funds other than 21st Century school grant monies or other grants unless authorized by the School Board.

### **Membership**

The 21st Century Schools Councils will be composed of teachers, parents or guardians, the principals, and classified district personnel. The council may also include persons identified by the school community as having particular benefit for council memberships, such as business representatives, community members, students, or other district staff. Site councils must have a minimum of seven members. In order to encourage good working groups, it is suggested that site councils range in size from 7-15 members.

The following principles will govern council membership:

1. The principal shall be a member of the council.
2. Teachers shall not comprise more than half of the council membership and shall serve voluntarily without pay and be elected by their peers at their local school.
3. Classified employees will have at least one member on each council, serve voluntarily without pay, and be elected by their peers at their local school.
4. Parents of students attending the local school shall not comprise more than half of the council and will serve voluntarily without pay. They shall be selected by parents of students attending the school.
5. Students will be encouraged to serve on each high school and middle school council. Students will serve voluntarily and without pay. Primary schools may choose to include student representation. The specific method for selecting student representation will be determined at the local school.
6. The site council will annually elect a chairperson who will conduct meetings and work with the principal to align site council work with district policies, vision, goals, and operating procedures.

7. If the School Board determines that a school site is unable to fulfill the requirements of this section, or if the needs of a school site require a different composition, upon petition from a site council the school board may establish a site council that best meets the educational needs of the school.

**Term of Office:**

The term of office for all members of the council, excluding administrators, shall be for two years. Elected members may be re-elected for consecutive terms.

Approximately one-half of the council's membership shall be identified for serving a one-year appointment the first year, so as to stagger the terms.

The membership year shall be July through June of the following year, with new appointments and elections to the school councils being determined no later than September 30 of each school year.

**Responsibilities:**

Each member of the 21st Century Schools Council at the local school site has responsibility to:

1. Commit to a process of collaboration to achieve school improvement and increase student achievement.
2. Learn about the school's instructional program, its curriculum goals and mission, the teaching strategies being used, student achievement test data, and issues unique to the local school.
3. Learn about the school board's goals for West Linn-Wilsonville Schools and the expectations for staff and students contained in the Oregon Educational Act for the 21st Century.
4. Support and collaborate in the process of setting the improvement goals for the school and assist with monitoring their progress.
5. Ensure good communication among all participants in the school.
6. Adopt a balanced perspective of the school program that reflects sensitivity to a variety of diverse viewpoints.

**Council Meetings:**

Meetings of 21st Century Schools Councils are open meetings and are subject to Oregon's Open Meeting law guidelines.

**Professional Development:**

The district encourages site council members to participate in staff development on group processes, communication, and shared decision making. Site council members should become familiar with the research and practices that support effective schools.

END OF POLICY