

SCHOOL-BASED PLANNING AND SHARED DECISION MAKING**Purpose**

The purpose of school-based planning and shared decision-making shall be to improve the educational performance of all students in the school, regardless of such factors as socio-economic status, race, sex, language background, or disability.

General Discussion

The Regulations of the Commissioner of Education provide that by February 1, 1994, every public school district Board of Education and BOCES must develop a district plan for the participation by teachers and parents with administrators and Board members in school-based planning and shared decision-making.

Development of Plan

The plan must be developed by a committee composed of the Superintendent of Schools, administrators elected by the District's administrative bargaining organization, teachers selected by their collective bargaining organization, and parents (not employed by the District or a collective bargaining organization representing teachers or administrators in the District) selected by school-related parent organizations. The District plan's provision for the participation of teachers or administrators in school-based planning and shared decision-making may be developed through collective negotiations between the Board of Education and local collective bargaining organizations representing administrators and teachers. If so, the District must incorporate such a negotiated plan into the District plan.

The Plan

The plan for participation in school-based planning and shared decision-making must specify:

1. The educational issues which will be subject to cooperative planning and shared decision-making at the building level by teachers, parents, administrators, and, at the discretion of the Board, other parties, such as students, District support staff, and community members.
2. The manner and extent of the expected involvement of all parties.
3. The means and standards by which all parties will evaluate improvement in student achievement.
4. The means by which all parties will be held accountable for the decisions which they share in making.
5. The process whereby disputes presented by the participating parties about the educational issues being decided upon will be resolved at the local level.

6. The manner in which all state and federal requirements for the involvement of parents in planning and decision-making will be coordinated with and met by the overall plan.

Adoption and Filing of Plan

The District's plan must be adopted by the Board at a public meeting after consultation with, and full participation by, the designated representatives of the teachers, administrators, and parents, and after the endorsement of the plan by such representatives has been sought. The plan must be filed with the Superintendent within thirty (30) days of adoption and made available to the public.

The Board must submit its plan to the Commissioner of Education for approval within thirty (30) days of adoption of the plan. The Commissioner will approve such a plan upon finding that it is in compliance with these regulations and makes provision for effective participation of parents, teachers, and administrators in school-based planning and decision-making.

Appeal of Adoption of Plan

In the event that the Board fails to provide for consultation with, and full participation of, all parties in the development of the plan, the aggrieved party or parties may institute an appeal to the Commissioner. Such an appeal may be instituted prior to final adoption by the Board and shall be instituted no later than thirty (30) days after final adoption.

Any aggrieved party who participated in the development of the District plan may also appeal to the Commissioner from action of the Board in adopting, amending, or recertifying the plan. The grounds for such an appeal may include, but are not limited to, non-compliance with any required Regulation of the Commissioner, and failure to provide for meaningful participation in school-based planning and shared decision-making within the District plan.

Biennial Review of the Plan

The District plan must be reviewed biennially by the Board. Any amendment or recertification of the plan must be developed and adopted pursuant to the provisions above. The amended plan, or a recertification, together with a statement of the plan's success in achieving its objectives, must be filed with the Superintendent and submitted to the Commissioner for approval no later than February 1st of each year in which such biennial review takes place.

Reference: 8 NYCRR 110.11
Education Law §§ 101, 207, 215, 305, 309, 310, 3117

Approved: June 19, 2001