

**A. SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION**

**LOCAL SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCILS**

To facilitate and encourage the involvement of the school community in the operation of the local schools and to support local initiatives to improve school performance, a local school improvement council shall be established at every school.

A local school improvement council shall consist of the following:

- (1) The principal, who shall serve as an ex officio member of the council and be entitled to vote;
- (2) Three teachers elected by the faculty senate of the school;
- (3) Two school service personnel employed at the school;
- (4) Three parent(s), guardian(s) or custodian(s) of students enrolled at the school elected by the parent(s), guardian(s) or custodian(s) members of the school's parent-teacher organization: Provided, That if there is no parent teacher organization, the parent(s), guardian(s) or custodian(s) members shall be elected by the parent(s), guardian(s) or custodian(s) of students enrolled at the school in such manner as they may be determined by the principal;
- (5) Two at-large members appointed by the principal, one of who resides in the school's attendance area and one of whom represents business or industry, neither of whom is eligible for membership under any of the other elected classes of members;
- (6) In the case of vocational-technical schools, the vocational director: Provided, That if there is no vocational director, then the principal may appoint no more than two additional representatives, one of who represents business and one of whom represents industry;
- (7) In the case of a school with students in grade seven or higher, the student body president or other student in grade seven or higher elected by the student body in those grades.

The principal shall arrange for such elections to be held prior to the fifteenth day of September of each school year to elect a council and shall give notice of the elections at least one week prior to the elections being held. To the extent practicable, all elections to select council members shall be held within the same week. Parent(s), guardian(s) or custodian(s), teachers and service personnel elected to the council shall serve a two-year term, and elections shall be arranged in such a manner that no more than two teachers, no more than two parent(s), guardian(s) or custodian(s), and no more than one service person are elected in a given year. All other non-ex officio members shall serve one-year terms.

As soon as practicable after the election of council members, and no later than the first day of October of each school year, the principal shall convene an organizational meeting of the school improvement council. The principal shall notify each member in writing at least two employment days in advance of the organizational meeting. At this meeting, the principal shall provide each member with a copy of the current applicable section of this code and any state

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board rule or regulation promulgated pursuant to the operation of these councils. The council shall elect from its membership a chair and two members to assist the chair in setting the agenda for each council meeting. The chair shall serve a term of one year and no person may serve as chair for more than two consecutive terms. If the chair's position becomes vacant for any reason, the principal shall call a meeting of the council to elect another qualified person to serve the unexpired term. Once elected, the chair is responsible for notifying each member of the school improvement council in writing two employment days in advance of any council meeting. School improvement councils shall meet at least once every nine weeks or equivalent grading period at the call of the chair or by three fourths of its members.

In order to promote innovations and improvements in the environment for teaching and learning at the school, a school improvement council shall receive cooperation from the school in implementing policies and programs it may adopt to:

- (1) Encourage involvement of parent(s), guardian(s) and custodian(s) in their child's educational process and in the school;
- (2) Encourage businesses to provide time for their employees who are parent(s), guardian(s) or custodian(s) to meet with teachers concerning their child's education;
- (3) Encourage advice and suggestions from the business community;
- (4) Encourage school volunteer programs and mentorship programs; and
- (5) Foster utilization of the school facilities and grounds for public community activities.

On or before the eighth day of June, one thousand nine hundred ninety-five, each local school improvement council shall develop and deliver a report to the county-wide council on productive and safe schools. The report shall include guidelines for the instruction and rehabilitation of pupils who have been excluded from the classroom, suspended from the school, or expelled from the school, the description and recommendation of in-school suspension programs, a description of possible alternative settings, schedules for instruction, and alternative education programs and an implementation schedule for such guidelines. The guidelines shall include the following (1) A system for effective communication between school and local emergency services agencies; (2) A preventive discipline program which may include the responsible students program devised by the WV board of education as adopted by the county board of education; and (3) A student involvement program which may include peer mediation program or programs devised by the WV board of education as adopted by the county board of education.

State law also provides authority and procedures for local school improvements councils to request waivers of certain rules, policies and interpretations. A local school improvement council may propose alternatives to the operation of the public school which will meet or exceed the high quality standards established by the state board and will increase administrative efficiency, enhance the delivery of instructional programs, promote community involvement in

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the local school system or improve the educational performance of the school generally.

The alternatives proposed by the council may include matters which require the waiver of policies or rules promulgated by the state or county board and state superintendent's interpretations: Provided, That such request for waiver be submitted to the appropriate board adopting said rule or policy and that board may approve the waiver.

Legal Source: School Laws of West Virginia, 2001 Edition, 18-5A-1; 18-5A-2 and 18-5A-3

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