

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

# School Governance Councils



## Overview of The Legislation's Purpose and Requirements



# Purpose of School Governance Councils

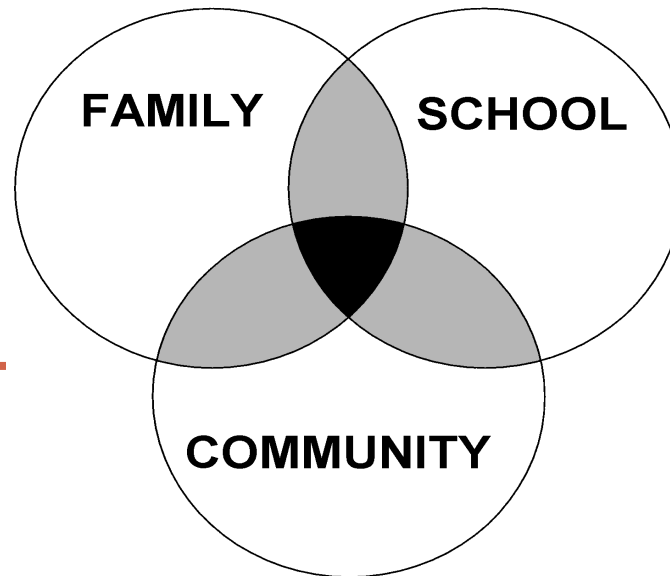


- The intent of Councils is to enable parents, school staff, students (where appropriate) and community leaders to **work together** to improve student achievement in the state's lowest performing schools.
- School Governance Councils serve in an **advisory** capacity to assist the school administration.

# School-Family-Community Partnerships

**“Schools, families and communities all contribute to student success, and the best results come when all three work together.”**

CSBE Position Statement on School-Family-Community Partnerships



# Schools That Must Create Councils



## By January 15, 2011

Schools that

- are among the state's lowest performing 5%

AND

- failed to make AYP in math and reading at the whole school level\*

## By November 1, 2011

- Schools that failed to make AYP in math and reading at the whole school level\*

**Exempted Schools:**  
Schools that have only  
1 grade level.

(Change per Public Act 11-135)

*\* Prior to July 1, 2010*

# Membership and Selection Process



<i>Member</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Process</i>
Parents or guardians	7	Elected by the parents or guardians of students attending the school, each household with a student attending the school will have one vote
Teachers at the school	5	Elected by the teachers of the school
Community leaders within the school district	2	Elected by the parent or guardian members and teacher members of the Council
School principal or designee (nonvoting)	1	Principal may name a designee
<b><i>Additional Members in High Schools</i></b>		
Student members, high school Councils only (nonvoting)	2	Elected by the school's student body

# Council Responsibilities



Councils shall advise the school administration in these areas:

- Analyze **school achievement data** and school needs as they relate to the school's improvement plan;
- Review the fiscal objectives of the school's **draft budget** and advise the principal before the budget is submitted to the superintendent;
- Participate in the hiring process of the school principal or other administrators of the school by **conducting interviews** of candidates and reporting on such interviews to the superintendent and the local board of education;
- Assist the principal in making **programmatic and operational** changes to improve the school's achievement;

## Responsibilities (continued)



- Develop and approve a written school **parent involvement policy** that outlines the role of parents and guardians
  - (Note: Schools that receive federal Title 1 funds are required to have a parent involvement policy developed jointly with, approved by, and distributed to parents. A school's Title 1 parent involvement policy can serve the purpose of the policy required under this section.)
- Work with school administrators in developing and approving a **school-parent compact** for parents, legal guardians, and students that outlines the school's goals and academic focus identifying ways that parents and school personnel can build a partnership to improve student learning.
  - (Note: Schools that receive federal Title 1 funds are required to have a school-parent compact, developed with parents. A school's Title 1 compact can serve the purpose of the compact required under this section.)

In addition to its required responsibilities, *a Council may:*



- Assist in developing and reviewing the **school improvement plan** advise the principal before the report is submitted to the superintendent of schools;
- Work with the principal to develop, conduct, and report the results of an annual survey of parents, guardians, and teachers on issues related to the **school climate and conditions**; and
- Provide advice to the principal on any other major policy matters affecting the school, except on matters relating to collective bargaining agreements between the teachers and the board of education.



# School Governance Councils Do Not



- Manage the school;
- Supervise staff;
- Enter into contracts or purchase agreements;
- Discuss individual issues between teachers and students and/or parents;
- Determine student eligibility for school admission; or
- Determine class allocations or student assignments.

# Stamford Public Schools Contact



- Mike Meyer, Director of Student Support Services  
(203) 977-5620  
[Mmeyer@ci.stamford.ct.us](mailto:Mmeyer@ci.stamford.ct.us)
- Juan Pazmino  
Office of Family & Community Engagement  
(203) 977-4529  
[Jpazmino@ci.stamford.ct.us](mailto:Jpazmino@ci.stamford.ct.us)
- Beryl Williams  
Office of Family & Community Engagement  
(203) 977-4465  
[Bwilliams@ci.stamford.ct.us](mailto:Bwilliams@ci.stamford.ct.us)