

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAMS

POLICY:

Lake Stevens schools exist in an ever-changing environment to serve a changing clientele. The purpose of school reform/renewal is to keep schools constantly adapting to those changes so that all students succeed. "Renewal" is an ongoing process which may include restructuring of schools and/or approaches to teaching and learning in order to assure the highest possible student performance.

Schools may offer diverse programs and services as they seek to meet the unique needs of their students. It is recognized that differences which may exist among schools, due to restructuring, are acceptable. However, to preserve the common values of the Lake Stevens School District community, each school shall make decisions within a framework of state laws and regulations, board policies, district guidelines, the District's strategic plan, and expected outcomes.

Consistent with its strategic plan, the Lake Stevens School District Board of Directors believes that school renewal may best be achieved through the process of school-centered decision making. This structure shall provide for decisions concerning School Improvement Teams:

1. Closest to where the students are educated;
2. Through the participation of those most directly in contact with the students; and
3. Within the context of a district and state framework surrounding the school.

A cooperative partnership in which staff/parents/students (as appropriate) and community patrons work together on a School Improvement Team (SIT) shall enhance the renewal process. The focus of SIT effort shall be on issues of significance pertaining to developing, implementing, and monitoring school improvement plans, and the general areas of teaching, learning, and strategic planning. Each school participating in school renewal activities is expected to:

1. Establish a fair system for selecting representatives for the School Improvement Team;
2. Be responsible for regular communications with their broader constituencies;
3. Provide a decision-making process marked by mutual respect and support among all of the participants;
4. Strive to achieve maximum effectiveness by seeking the participants' commitment to support implementation of each decision;
5. Coordinate activities with district support staff to ensure effective implementation of school goals;
6. Develop operational procedures to facilitate the work of the SIT;
7. Obtain initial Board approval if the proposed activity or program is at variance with existing board policy, administrative procedures, or district goals as enunciated in the strategic plan;
8. Interim informational reports regarding renewal activities during concept development, planning, and implementation shall be provided in a timely manner to the appropriate director, Superintendent, and Board;
9. Each school shall assess its progress in school renewal activities and share the results with the school's community. Such assessment should be regular and frequent; and
10. Each school shall also submit an annual written evaluation to the Superintendent and Board. A description of the membership of the School Improvement Team, decision-making process used, the goals achieved, and how the renewal process has contributed to learning by individual students shall be included in this report.

Legal References:

- RCW 28A.305.140 Waivers
28A.320.200 Program Evaluation
28A. 630 Temporary Provisions--Special Projects
- WAC 180-16-200 Total Program Hour Offerings
WAC 180-16-205 Classroom Teacher Contact Hours Requirement
Waiver