

DIRECTOR DISTRICTS

It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors to establish the boundaries of the internal director districts of the school district, and to redistrict the director districts as necessary.

Division or Redivision of District into Director Districts

The Board of Directors, with the assistance of the administration, the ESD the state redistricting commission, and consultants (e.g., attorneys, demographic experts, etc.) as appropriate, prepare for the division or redivision of the district into director districts no later than eight months after any of the following:

1. Receipt of federal decennial census data from the redistricting commission;
2. Consolidation of the district with one or more other districts into one district;
3. Transfer of territory to or from the district;
4. Approval by a majority of the district's registered voters of a proposition to divide the district into director districts.

The districting or redistricting plan shall be consistent with the criteria and adopted according to the procedure established under law.

Legal References: RCW 29A.76.010	Redistricting by counties, municipal corporations, and special purpose districts
28A.343.030	Directors' districts in certain school districts — Election to authorize division in school districts not already divided into director districts
28A.343.040	Division or redivision of district into director districts
28A.343.050	Dissolution of directors' districts
28A.315.195	Transfer of territory by petition – Requirements — Rules — Costs Restructuring First Class Director Districts
Chapter 44.05 RCW Washington State Redistricting Act Washington State Redistricting Commission – http://www.redistricting.wa.gov/	

Management Resources: *Policy News*, August 2008

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Director Districts

Redistricting

No later than eight months after its receipt of federal decennial census data, the board of directors of the district shall prepare a plan for redistricting its internal or director districts. The plan shall be consistent with meet the following criteria:

1. The districts shall be as nearly as possible equal in population;
2. the districts shall be as compact as possible and consist of geographically contiguous area;
3. Population data may not be used for purposes of favoring or disfavoring any racial group or political party; and
4. The districts shall, to the extent feasible and if not inconsistent with the basic enabling legislation for the district, coincide with natural boundaries and shall, to the extent possible, preserve existing communities of related and mutual interest.

During the adoption of its plan, the district shall ensure that full and reasonable public notice of its actions is provided. The district shall hold at least one public hearing on the redistricting plan at least one week before adoption of the plan.

Any registered voter residing in an area affected by the redistricting plan may request review of the adopted local plan by the superior court of the county in which he or she resides, within fifteen days of the plan's adoption. Any request for review must specify the reason or reasons alleged why the local plan is not consistent with the applicable redistricting criteria. The district may be joined as respondent. The superior court shall thereupon review the challenged plan for compliance with the applicable redistricting criteria.

If the superior court finds the plan to be consistent with the requirements of this section, the plan shall take effect immediately. If the superior court determines the plan does not meet the requirements of this section, in whole or in part, it shall remand the plan for further or corrective action within a specified and reasonable time period. If the superior court finds that any request for review is frivolous or has been filed solely for purposes of harassment or delay, it may impose appropriate sanctions on the party requesting review, including payment of attorneys' fees and costs to the respondent district.

Certain school districts—Election to authorize division in school districts not already divided into directors' districts

The board of directors of every first-class school district other than a school district of the first class having within its boundaries a city with a population of four hundred thousand people or more which is not divided into directors' districts may submit to the voters at any regular school district election a proposition to authorize the board of directors to divide the district into directors' districts or for second-class school districts into director districts or a combination of no fewer than three director districts and no more than two at large positions. If a majority of the votes cast on the proposition is affirmative, the board of directors shall proceed to divide the district into directors' districts following the procedure established in RCW 29A.76.010. Such director districts, if approved, shall not become effective until the next regular school election when a new five member board of directors shall be elected, one from each of the director districts from among the residents of the respective director district, or from among the residents of the entire school district in the case of directors at large, by the electors of the entire district, two for a term of two years and three for a term of four years, unless such district elects its directors for six years, in which case, one for a term of two years, two for a term of four years, and two for a term of six years.

Dissolution of Director Districts:

Upon receipt by the educational service district superintendent of a resolution adopted by the board or a written petition from a first-class or second-class school district signed by at least twenty percent of the registered voters of the district previously divided into directors' districts, which resolution or petition shall request dissolution of the existing directors' districts and reapportionment of the district into no fewer than three directors' districts and with no more than two directors at large, the superintendent, after formation of the question to be submitted to the voters, shall give notice thereof to the county auditor who shall call and hold a special election of the voters of the entire district to approve or reject such proposal, such election to be called, conducted and the returns canvassed as in regular district elections. If approval of a majority of those registered voters voting in said election is acquired, at the expiration of terms of the incumbent directors of the district their successors shall be elected in the manner approved.

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