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| <b>SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAM POLICY</b> | <b>GG</b>          |
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## **LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAM POLICY**

### **I. Purpose**

In accordance with the Rhode Island School Improvement Act, as amended,<sup>1</sup> the Lincoln School Committee adopts this School Improvement Team Policy to establish a School Improvement Team for each school in the District and a District School Improvement Team.

### **II. Philosophy**

The Lincoln School Committee believes that each school is a key unit for educational improvement and change and that successful school improvement is best accomplished through a school-based decision-making process.

Involving a representative group of stakeholders in the decision-making process strengthens the commitment to those decisions by those most affected by their implementation.

School Improvement Teams may act as advisors to Principals and the Superintendent in specific areas of educational policy.

### **III Policy**

Principals are the educational administrators and managers of their schools and shall supervise the operation and management of their schools and school property, subject to the supervision and direction of the superintendent<sup>2</sup>. Site based decisions must be aligned with the district budget, policies, curriculum, and long-term and short-term goals adopted by the School Committee and under the direction of the Superintendent of Schools.

The Principal, except as otherwise provided, shall have the responsibility for forming the site-based School Improvement Teams pursuant to the School Improvement Team Membership Protocol. The school improvement team will establish a regular meeting schedule and must meet at least monthly during the school year.

### **Composition of School Improvement Teams**

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<sup>1</sup> R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-53.1-1 *et seq.*

<sup>2</sup> 16-2-11.1. General powers and duties of school principals.

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Each school improvement team shall be composed of the principal and an appropriately balanced number of teachers, education support employees, students, parents, and other business and community citizens who are representative of the ethnic, racial and economic community served by the school.

Members representing teachers, education support employees, students, and parents shall be selected by their peer groups at the school in a fair and equitable manner.

The School Committee shall review the membership composition of each school improvement team. Should the School Committee determine that the membership elected by the school is not representative of the ethnic, racial, and economic community served by the school, the School Committee shall appoint additional members to achieve proper representation.

### **Duties of the School Improvement Team**

The School Improvement Team shall:

1. Assist the Principal in the adoption of educational goals for the school that are consistent with state and local policies and standards and federal and state law.
2. Assist the Principal in the identification of the educational needs of the students attending the school;
3. Make recommendations to the Principal for the development, implementation and assessment of a curriculum accommodation plan;
4. Assist the Principal in the review of the annual school budget<sup>3</sup>;
5. Assist the Principal in the formulation of an annual school improvement plan to improve student performance.<sup>4</sup>

### **School Improvement Plan**

The School Improvement Plan may be implemented only after review and approval by the Superintendent and after consultation with the School Committee.

1. The School Improvement Plan shall:
  - a. Include, but not be limited to, the same components required for the district improvement plan; and
  - b. Conform to Rhode Island Department of Education and District specifications to ensure that such School Improvement Plans meet state and federal laws and regulations.

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<sup>3</sup> R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-53.1-3

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

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2. The Principal's submission of the plan shall be in compliance with a plan development and review schedule as established by the Superintendent.

### **District School Improvement Team**

The School Committee may establish a district school improvement team representative of the district and composed of teachers, students, parents, and other citizens or a district school improvement team which may be comprised of representatives of each school improvement team.

### **Decision Making**

To conduct business, a quorum consists of greater than 50% of members present. Decisions are affirmed by a simple majority vote of the members present. If a quorum is not present, the meeting may be held but no binding vote may be taken.

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## **PROCEDURES FOR THE ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL BASED IMPROVEMENT TEAM MEMBERS**

Membership for each school-based School Improvement Team shall be appropriately balanced with teachers, ed support employees, students, parents and community members and shall include:<sup>5</sup>

1. School principal for school-based teams.
2. Parents/guardians of students attending the school, who shall be elected by the parents/guardians of students attending such school.
3. There shall be an equal number of parents/ guardians and professional personnel on the School Improvement Team.
4. Teachers elected by the teachers in the school.
5. Curriculum Leaders/Department Heads or designee at the middle and high school levels: at least one Curriculum Leader/Department Head or designee from the humanities subject areas and one from the science, technology, engineering or math subject areas.
6. Education support employees elected by the education support employees in the school.
7. Other business and community citizens selected by the Principal and drawn from such groups or entities as municipal government, business and labor organizations, institutions of higher education, human services agencies, community groups, or other interested groups, who are representative of the ethnic, racial and economic community served by the school.
8. Should the School Committee determine that the membership elected by the school is not representative of the ethnic, racial, and economic community served by the school, the Committee shall appoint additional members to achieve proper representation.
9. For schools containing grades nine through twelve, students shall elect peer members to the School Improvement Team.
10. For middle schools, the Principal may facilitate student peer elections for membership to the School Improvement Team.
11. For vocational-technical center school-improvement teams shall include students.

The School Committee shall review the membership composition of each school improvement team. Should the School Committee determine that the membership

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<sup>5</sup> R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-53.1-2.

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elected by the school is not representative of the ethnic, racial, and economic community served by the school, the board shall appoint additional members to achieve proper representation.

**Term Length:**

Members shall serve a one-year term. Vacancies will be filled by election or appointment as required by this protocol. Members of School Improvement Teams at the direction of the school principal may be re-elected or reappointed for more than one term.

First Reading: March 9, 2020

Second Reading: April 20, 2020

Policy Adopted: April 20, 2020

Reviewed: December 9, 2024

***TOWN OF LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE, Lincoln, Rhode Island***