

ADVANTAGES OF A SCHOOL COUNCIL

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Does Your School Have An Active School Council?

Did you know that by law, you are required to have a School Council? How can you make a positive change for your school climate with an active School Council? According to the Georgia School Council Institute, "a School Council brings communities and schools closer together in a spirit of cooperation to solve difficult education problems, improve academic achievement, provide support for teachers and administrators, and bring parents into the decision-making process."

Quick Facts

- ◆ At least 7 people must serve on the Council
- ◆ A majority of the members must be parents
- ◆ All meetings are open to the public
- ◆ The Council must meet at least 2 times per year

How Do I Get Started?

If your School Council is not in place or has not been active, concentrate on your members. The required members consist of 1) the Principal, 2) two certified teachers elected by the teachers, 3) four parents and two of them must be businesspersons.

Really focus on getting the right people. You need people who will be dependable and who will look at issues with an open-mind.



PROCEDURES

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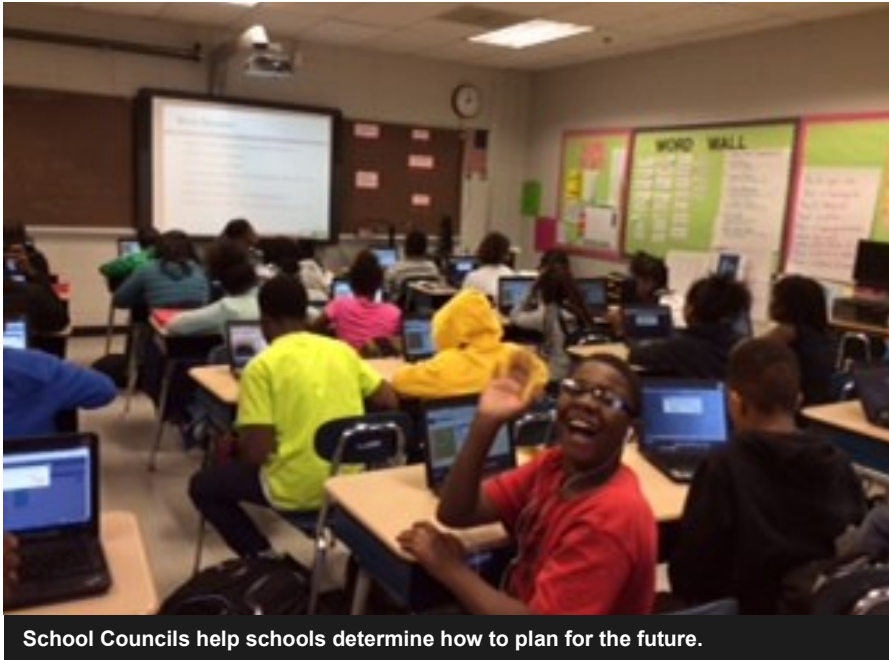
To find detailed information, please visit the Georgia School Council Institute page at www.gsci.org



School Councils bring communities and schools together to improve achievement..

Timeline

- Select council members
- Send list of members to Accountability Office by August 1st
- Record meetings in eBoard



What Laws Govern School Councils?

- ◆ O.C.G.A. 20-2-85—
Establishment of School Councils
- ◆ O.C. G.A. 20-2-86—
Requirements of School Councils

State Board Rule 160-3-3-.04

Several Georgia laws mention School Councils as a governing body or an advisory group.

What Does A School Council Do?

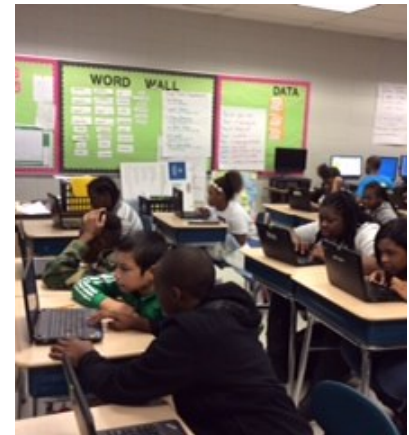
Your School Council is a link to the community and should provide recommendations on the following:

- ◆ School board policies
- ◆ School improvement plans
- ◆ Curriculum and assessments
- ◆ Development of the school's profile
- ◆ School budget priorities
- ◆ Communication strategies
- ◆ Methods of involving parents
- ◆ Extracurricular activities
- ◆ Any other appropriate topic involving student achievement

Meetings

The Council must meet at least 2 times per year and must have an agenda for each meeting. The meeting agenda will be housed in the eBoard system. A School Council meeting type has been created. The meetings are open to the public and are subject to Open Records requests.

Written notice must be given to all members of the School Council seven days prior to meeting. A quorum (majority of members) must be present at the meeting.



School Council Bylaws

Each school must have School Council Bylaws in place.



Please make sure that you have completed the School Council Compliance Checklist. This must be kept in the Accountability Office.