



QUICK FACTS ON SCHOOL COUNCILS

DOES YOUR SCHOOL HAVE AN ACTIVE SCHOOL COUNCIL?



Did you know that Georgia law requires each school to have a School Council? An active School Council can help you make a positive change for your school climate. 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.”

WHAT DOES A SCHOOL COUNCIL DO?

YOUR SCHOOL COUNCIL IS A LINK TO THE COMMUNITY AND SHOULD PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS AND ASSISTANCE ON THE FOLLOWING:

- SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS
- CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENTS
- DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCHOOL’S PROFILE
- SCHOOL BUDGET PRIORITIES
- SCHOOL-COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES
- METHODS OF INVOLVING PARENTS AND COMMUNITY
- EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
- ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE TOPIC INVOLVING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

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.
- Each School Council must have Bylaws in place.
- Membership must be reflective of the school community.

MEETINGS

The Council must meet at least 2 times per year and must have an agenda for each meeting. Written notice of the meetings must be provided 7 days prior to meeting. The meetings are open to the public and are subject to Open Records requests. A quorum (majority of members) must be present at the meeting.

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

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:

- The Principal
- Two Certified Teachers
- At least 4 Parents, 2 of whom 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 and an eye toward school improvement.

TIMELINE

- Select Council Members
- Submit List of School Council Members to the Accountability Office by September 16th
- [Click Here to Submit the List of School Council Members](#)
- Establish at Least Two Meeting Dates
- Reach Out to the Accountability Department for Next Steps, Forms, and Templates
- Upload Meeting Artifacts in the Canvas Course throughout the School Year