

SCHOOL COUNCILS

The Westfield School Committee believes that the school is the key unit for educational improvement and change and that successful school improvement is best accomplished through a school-based decision-making process. By involving those directly affected by any action or decision of the School Council in the process of determining that action or decision, it helps to strengthen the commitment to those decisions by those most affected by its implementation.

Under this policy, the Principal shall have primary responsibility for the management of the school. Decisions which are made at the school level must be aligned with the budget, policies, curriculum, and long-range and short-range goals adopted by the Westfield School Committee. In addition, decisions must comply with any state and federal laws and regulations and with any negotiated agreements of the school district.

As enacted by the state legislature in the Education Reform Act of 1993, a School Council shall be established in each school to advise the Principal in specific areas of school operation. The Principal, except as specifically defined in the law, shall have the responsibility for defining the composition of and forming the group pursuant to a representative process approved by the Superintendent and Westfield School Committee.

The following guidelines define the role of the School Council:

The School Council shall meet regularly with the Principal of the school and shall assist in:

1. Adopt educational goals for the school that are consistent with state and local policies and standards.
2. Identify the educational needs and climate of the students attending the school.
3. Review of the school building budget.
4. Formulate the Strategies for Continuous Improvement that may be implemented only after review and approved by the Superintendent.

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. [71:38Q](#), [71:59C](#)

First reading: June 15, 2017 meeting

2nd/final reading and adopted: August 28, 2017 meeting