
SITE-BASED DECISION MAKING

The Freeman School District is committed to site-based decision making for program improvement. The district believes that an ongoing process of shared decisions fosters a collaborative learning environment at each school that helps students attain their personal, creative, and academic potential.

Site-based decision making is a process to improve the quality of education. It provides the foundation for gathering data, establishing a mission and goals, building a positive school climate, implementing strategies for program improvement, and evaluating student learning. It is a responsible way to collaboratively plan, problem solve, and make decisions.

Participation: In the Freeman School District, participation in building-based decision making should involve both the educational and broader community. The degree of participation in decisions should fit with the decisions being made.

Each school will use participatory processes for making decisions regarding learning for students in that school. Existing decision-making groups may be used or modified as necessary to assure staff, student, and community involvement. The decision-making process at each school is to be described in a set of school guidelines. The guidelines are subject to approval by the school board.

Principals are responsible to regularly communicate the activities, plans, and decisions regarding their school to the school community. The principal is responsible to assure that site-based decisions are in harmony with state/federal laws and regulations, school board policies and procedures, and other district programs.

Decision-Making: The Freeman School Board believes the individual school community is the place where many of the most important decisions about school improvement and planning can and should be made. With the direct input of parents, staff, and community members, there can be greater ownership of our schools and their mission.

The school board and district administrators are responsible to conduct long-range planning and establish district goals. They also determine broad guidelines for school-based planning and decision making. Each school planning group under the leadership of the principal is responsible to analyze needs and develop plans to enhance student learning at their school. When decisions need to be made due to sensitivity, timing, confidentiality, or for other legitimate reasons, the principal has the responsibility and authority to do so.

The principal is responsible to regularly submit a plan for school improvement to the superintendent. The plan must include, but is not limited to, school mission and goals, strategies for implementation, needed resources, staff development activities, and evaluation of student and program outcomes. The board retains authority for allocation of district funds, staff, and resources to support school improvement plans.

Legal Reference:

RCW 28A.300.138
Ch. 180-18 WAC

Student Learning Improvement Grants
Waivers for restructuring purposes

Adoption Date: February 13, 2008