

## SCHOOL COUNCILS

**INTRODUCTION:** This policy is designed to implement the provisions of Chapter 71, Section 59C, which requires the establishment of school councils in all of the public schools in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The School Committee supports and encourages the intent and purpose of school councils. The School Committee believes that parents, teachers, high school students and other members of the community working collaboratively to advise the principal will enhance the education of all of the children in Hadley. The School Committee recognizes that the need to keep the size of the council manageable makes it difficult, if not impossible, for all segments of the school community to be represented as part of the council. The School Committee urges the PTO and each respective school faculty, when defining their election/selection process, to remind their membership of their need to ensure that the council itself is as broadly representative of all of the different groups within each respective school as possible. The law clearly states the importance of councils reflecting the racial and ethnic diversity of the building and school community.

While the School Committee supports the attempt to foster a collaborative effort at the local school level, it also recognizes its responsibility to provide a common direction for all the students in Hadley, regardless of which school they attend. To that extent, it is the expectation of the School Committee that school councils, when developing school improvement plans, will not only address the areas contained within the Reform Act, but also will identify how each school intends to meet the system-wide goals, which are contained in various district improvement documents.

The purposes of the school councils are to:

1. Assist and advise principals in adopting educational goals for the schools;
2. Assist and advise principals in the identification of the educational needs of the students;
3. Make recommendations to the principals for the development, implementation or, and assessment of, the curriculum accommodation plan required pursuant to M.G.L. 71:38Q1/2.
4. Assist and advise principals in the review of the annual school budget; and
5. Assist and advise principals in the formulation of a school improvement plan.

LEGAL REFS: M.G.L. 71:38Q1/2 and  
M.G.L. 71:59C

Adopted By The  
Hadley School Committee: March 24, 2014  
Reviewed September 29, 2017