

BETHEL SCHOOL DISTRICT #52
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY STATEMENT

Subject: Shared Decision-Making

Policy Number: IFCA Effective Date: 2/2024

Date of Original Policy and Revisions: 1/94, 5/95, 2/00, 1/07, 7/12, 1/16

Cancels Policy: _____ Dated: _____

Date of Next Review: 2/2027

POLICY

The Bethel School District Board of Directors supports the concept of shared decision making. The District's shared decision-making process focuses upon each site being a part of the District and having a responsibility to work with all other sites. The District has chosen the term shared decision-making rather than site based management. Site based management could be interpreted to view each site as a separate entity that operates independently and does not consider its relationship to the whole. Shared decision-making emphasizes that no site or program exists in isolation from any other or from the District organization as a whole. All members of the school community are given the opportunity to work collaboratively to achieve the District's mission.

Definition

Shared decision-making is a joint planning, problem solving and decision making process that includes members of the school community who seek to enhance the education of students and the quality of learning, teaching, and the working environment. The school community is involved in the decision-making process and is responsible for the implementation of those decisions. The purpose of this decision-making process is to improve student performance, increase school community satisfaction, and make efficient use of resources.

Beliefs

The Bethel School District Board of Directors believes that:

1. The school community can make responsible and creative educational decisions by utilizing student performance data and effective school research;
2. Better decisions can be made when the school community is given the opportunity to participate in the decision making process;
3. The authority to make decisions is closely coupled with accountability; and,
4. Increased school community involvement results in greater satisfaction, effective use of resources, and increased student performance.

Benefits

Shared Decision Making....

1. Results in consensus and commitment to goals by empowering individuals to support those goals;
2. Produces higher commitment and results in a greater degree of implementation;
3. Results in greater staff satisfaction and productivity;

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4. Improves information flow and communication; and,
5. Provides more people with the opportunity for developing leadership skills.

Commitment

In order for shared decision-making to be effective, the Board, administration, staff, and community must make a commitment to:

1. A system-wide culture that supports collegiality and collaboration; and,
2. Professional development for site and District teams and committees to acquire skills needed for shared decision making and instructional leadership.

REPORTS

None.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

REFERENCES / COMMENTS