



School Site Council FAQs

What is a school site council?

[ORS 329.704](#) - Local 21st Century School Councils

School site councils are school initiated groups whose purpose is to improve the school's staff, the school's instructional plan, and procurement of grants.

- Composed of teachers, parents, classified employees, and principal.
 - Not more than half the members shall be teachers;
 - Not more than half the members shall be parents;
 - At least one member shall be a classified employee; and
 - One member shall be the principal or the principal's designee.
- Other members can be selected (business leaders, students, and members of the community at large)

Who chooses school site council members?

- Teachers shall be licensed teachers elected by licensed teachers at the school site;
- Classified employees shall be elected by classified employees at the school site;
- Parents shall be selected by parents of students attending the school;
- Others shall be selected by the council

Why do school site councils matter?

They give parents the ability to have insight into what is going on in schools, as well as to help shape the site plan for the school year which can include (but isn't limited to):

- Facilities
- Curriculum

- Staff training/needs
- Grants/funding
- Special programs

How is a site council different from PTA/PTO/PTC?

Site councils are a group of parents, teachers and administrators, run by the principal, that help make decisions regarding budget and school improvements. PTA/PTO/PTC's are parent groups that often have their own budget and help with events, fundraising, and volunteering.

How do I know if my school has a site council?

Site councils are initiated and run by the school's principal, so reach out and ask them. They also generally help with the selection process of members of the site council. If your school doesn't have a site council, talk with your principal about restarting the site council.

How do I talk to the principal/school board about site councils?

- School site councils are required by Oregon law and cannot be satisfied by a PTO/PTA/PTSA or any parent-led organization.
- School site councils are important because they allow parents to have input on curriculum, facilities, school funding, and other important issues pertaining to their school.
- Parents should have input on the selection process for the parents that participate on the school's site council.

Note: Here are samples to present to your school board to assist in easy implementation of site councils in your district:

<https://policy.osba.org/orcity//IFCA%20D1.PDF>

<https://policy.osba.org/orcity//IFCA%20R%20D1.PDF>

For more information

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 192.660 to -192.690](#)

[ORS 243.650](#)

[ORS 243.782](#)

[ORS 329.125](#)

[ORS 329.704](#)

[OAR 581-020-0100 to -0115](#)

[OAR 581-020-0130](#)